Trade and Industry

4 March 1976 25p

National Enterprise Board
draft guidelines

Time to call the Building Research Advisory Service

contact points

Firms wishing to put inquiries to the Departments of Industry and Trade will find contact with the nearest Regional Office most convenient. Telephone numbers are:

Northern Region, Newcastle upon Tyne	**0632 27575**
North West Region, Manchester	**061-236 2171**
Yorkshire and Humberside Region, Leeds	**0532 443171**
East Midlands Region, Nottingham	**0602 46121**
West Midlands Region, Birmingham	**021-632 4111**
South West Region, Bristol	**0272 291071**
Eastern Region, London	**01-603 2070**
London and South Eastern Region	**01-603 2060**

Departmental Buildings in London

1 Victoria Street, SW1H 0ET **Monsanto House, Victoria Street, SW1H 0NQ**	**01-215 7877**
Abell House, John Islip Street, SW1P 4LN **Millbank Tower, Millbank, SW1P 4QU** **Thames House South, Millbank, SW1P 4QJ**	**01-211 3000**
Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, SW1P 2AG	**01-212 7676**
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, EC4M 7HU **Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, EC4M 7HU**	**01-248 5757**
Sunley House, 90-93 High Holborn, WC1V 6LP	**01-405 6911**
Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, SE1 8UA	**01-275 3000**
Cleland House, Page Street, SW1P 4LW	**01-222 8020**

In Scotland

Contact **The Scottish Economic Planning Department, Industrial Development Division, 314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8XF**	**041-248 2855**

In Wales

Contact **The Welsh Office, Industry Department, Block 2, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 4YL**	**0222 62131**

Trade and Industry

5 March 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

The case of the crooked chimney . . . the case of the draughty precinct . . . the case of the vibrating bus garage . . . . If a solution to such terrible mysteries defies a construction team, it's time to call the Building Research Advisory Service – which may well have tackled the case before (page 636).

Trade and Industry

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Home News

First meeting of advisory board for Government's £20 million clothing industry scheme

Some of the members and officials at the first meeting of the clothing industry scheme advisory board at Manchester on Monday. From the left: Stephen Carter (director, Clothing Scheme Administration Unit); R. B. de Zouche; L. C. Young (chairman); L. A. Matthews, and D. M. J. Gwinnell (Department of Industry).

Mr. L. C. Young, group managing director of J. Bibby and Sons Ltd., has been appointed chairman of the advisory board for the Government's £20 million Scheme of Assistance to the Clothing Industry. Details of the scheme, which is being implemented under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972, were announced on 15 October 1975 by Lord Beswick, the then Minister of State at the Department of Industry. The scheme is intended to assist the industry by encouraging rationalisation and restructuring and the improvement of productivity and efficiency (see *Trade and Industry*, 24 October 1975).

The board, which has been set up to advise the Department of Industry on cases of particular importance arising under the scheme, held its first meeting in Manchester (where the scheme is being administered) on Monday.

The other members of the advisory board are:

Mr. T. D. Parr, chairman and managing director of Thomas Marshall Investments Ltd.

Mr. R. B. de Zouche, Messrs Wilson, de Zouche and MacKenzie, chartered accountants.

Mr. L. A. Matthews, formerly assistant general secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers and currently a member of the Clothing EDC.

Mr. R. Windle, Oxford Management Centre and the National Economic Development Office.

Administration of the scheme

As a condition of approval, it will have to be shown (among other things) that a project is commercially and technically viable; is appropriate to the managerial and financial resources of the applicant firm; and will significantly improve productivity and efficiency.

Applications must be submitted before 31 December 1976 and projects completed by 31 December 1978. Applications must be made or initiated before the project is started.

Application forms and notes of guidance for applicants are available from the appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Industry, or, in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, from the Scottish Office, Welsh Office or Northern Ireland Department of Commerce. Detailed inquiries about the scheme should be made to:

Department of Industry
Clothing Scheme Administration Unit
Sunley Building
Piccadilly Plaza
Manchester M1 4BA (tel. 061-236 2171)

Industry Act assistance: interest rates reduced

The maximum rate of Interest Relief Grant and interest rates for loans under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 have been reduced with effect from 1 March.

The rate of Interest Relief Grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow the equivalent of an interest free period on a Department of Industry loan – but where firms prefer a commercial loan – is being reduced from 12½ per cent to 12 per cent for each interest free year.

The 'concessionary' rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects (Category A) is reduced from 9½ per cent to 9 per cent. The 'broadly commercial' rate of interest on loans for modernisation projects not providing additional employment (Category B) is reduced from 12½ per cent to 12 per cent.

Occupiers for Hull terrace units

Kings Mechanical Services Limited is now occupying two of the terrace units, totalling about 4,180 m² built by the English Industrial Estates Corporation on the Sutton Fields Industrial Estate, Hull.

Kings Mechanical Services Ltd., a Division of Ferguson Humberside Ltd., will be engaged in the manufacture of heating and ventilating components, external cladding and metallic ceiling components. When full production the company expects to employ 56 people.

CMS (Cultured Marble) Limited is also occupying one of the terrace units of about 2,090 m². They will use the premises for the manufacture of cultured marble products such as cultured marble sink and vanity tops, panelling for shower, bath tub surrounds, shop fronts, sills and marble coffee and lamp tables. The company expects to employ a total of 15 people when full production is reached.

Applications for investment grant

The Department of Industry has accepted since 1 January 1976 applications for investment grant in respect of capital expenditure incurred in the period 1 July to 30 September 1975. Such applications have been payable from 1 January 1976.

The Department now announces that applications in respect of the following quarter, 1 October to 31 December 1975, will be accepted from 1 April 1976 and that payment on such applications, after approval, will begin from that date.

Investment grant is payable on expenditure incurred after 26 October 1970 only where it arises under a contract entered into by that date. Applications should be made to the Department on the appropriate form, accompanied by form IG/32 (or form IG/33 for ships) and relevant evidence of contract.

Closing dates

The Department reminds applicants that, by virtue of the Investment Grant Termination (No. 5) Order 1975 and of the Direction made under it on 17 February 1975, no investment grant will be made in respect of expenditure incurred in the period 1 July to 30 September 1974 unless application on the appropriate form and accompanied by a report by an independent accountant is made to the Department of Industry before 1 April 1976. Applicants should ensure that they have duly completed the appropriate form and forwarded it to the reporting accountant in sufficient time to enable him to examine and report on it and for the documents to be received by one of the Grants Offices not later than 31 March 1976.

Applications relating to expenditure incurred during the following periods should be made by the dates specified.

Expenditure incurred	Date before which application must be made
1 October 1974-31 December 1974	1 July 1976
1 January 1975-31 March 1975	1 October 1976

By virtue of the Investment Grants Termination (No. 6) Order 1976 and the Direction made under it on 9 February 1976 applications relating to expenditure incurred during the following periods should be made by the dates specified:

Expenditure incurred	Date before which application must be made
1 April 1975-30 June 1975	1 January 1977
1 July 1975-30 September 1975	1 April 1977
1 October 1975-31 December 1975	1 July 1977
1 January 1976-31 March 1976	1 October 1977

Firms contemplating applying for investment grants towards expenditure incurred on the production of prototypes must also comply with all the requirements as to the making of applications by specified terminal dates. Special considerations may affect this type of application and if firms foresee difficulty in meeting these requirements they should seek guidance from the appropriate office.

Guidance on the preparation of forms may be obtained from the appropriate office. The addresses of the offices are:

Department of Industry, Regional Development Grants Office,

Queensway House, West Precinct, Town Centre, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 2NF, tel. (0642) 553671, telex 58608.

St. Peter's House, Stanley Precinct, Bootle, Merseyside L20 3LZ, tel. 051-922 4030, telex 627162.

24/26 Newport Road, Cardiff CF2 1SY, tel. (0222) 42611, telex 49538.

Magnet House, Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 7BT, tel. 041-221 9833, telex 77611.

Forms for ships, hovercraft and computers are available from the Department of Industry, Regional Development Grants Division, Room 2722, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU, tel. 01-211 5518, telex 918829.

Official appointments

Inspector General of Companies. The Department of Trade has announced that from 23 February, Mr. Ernest Harper has been appointed Inspector General of Companies, Companies Liquidation and Bankruptcy and Registrar of Deeds of Arrangement on the retirement of Mr. C. A. Taylor.

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has made the following appointments:

Domestic Coal Consumers' Council. Mr. David Tench will be the next chairman of the Domestic Coal Consumers' Council when the present chairman, Mrs. S. M. Niblett, retires on 31 May. A new deputy chairman, Mrs. B. M. Ashwin, previously a member of the council, took office on 1 March.

London Electricity Consultative Council. Mr. T. Young reappointed chairman until 7 April 1977.

North Eastern Electricity Consultative Council. Mr. J. Brocklebank reappointed chairman until 28 February 1978.

Minister visits shipbuilding and aircraft workers

Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State, Department of Industry, in the steel production shops of Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd., Birkenhead. The Minister has been making a number of visits to shipbuilding and aircraft establishments in response to invitations from members of parliament. The visits provide an opportunity for the Minister to hear from workers at the point of production their views on industrial democracy in the industries to be nationalised. Accompanied by Tony Smith, Cammell Laird's managing director and chief executive (left), Mr. Kaufman is seen talking to (from the left) John Baker, a plater, Derek Marshall, a burner, and George Joynson, who is also a plater.

Peter Shore dismisses British Airways appeal on tour holidays

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has dismissed an appeal by British Airways against the Civil Aviation Authority's decision to refuse to vary Britannia Airways' inclusive tour licence by attaching additional conditions concerning the accommodation which forms part of the package of air travel and accommodation.

The effect of the decision is that Britannia will continue to be able to carry holidaymakers on Thomson Holidays 'Wanderer' holidays, under their inclusive tour licence.

British Airways' appeal followed a CAA hearing at which they submitted that 'Wanderer' holidays were a misuse of an inclusive tour licence and would be damaging to scheduled services if they spread beyond the original destinations in Greece. The additional licence conditions proposed by British Airways were aimed at preventing the alleged misuse. However the CAA found in Britannia's favour.

The essential difference between a 'Wanderer' holiday and a conventional inclusive tour holiday is that 'Wanderer' holidaymakers do not stay at a pre-arranged hotel but are issued with vouchers exchangeable for very basic accommodation for the duration of their holiday at a range of small hotels and hostels, and are thus free to travel about.

Ground proximity warning system for public transport aircraft

A ground proximity warning system, which will alert pilots when they are dangerously near ground or water, will become mandatory for most British public transport aircraft in 1977.

Following trials on its own aircraft and extensive consultations with the industry, the Civil Aviation Authority is seeking amendments to the Air Navigation Order which will require ground proximity warning systems to be carried on public transport flights by aircraft above 15,000kg in weight or authorised to carry 30 passengers or more. The requirement will take effect for turbo jets on 1 January 1977 and for other aeroplanes on 1 July 1977.

The authority intends to monitor the operation of ground proximity warning systems during the initial period, in order to satisfy itself that the procedures and equipment are working correctly and do not give rise to unwanted or unnecessary warnings.

Talks on air services between Thailand and the UK

Talks on air services were held in London recently between delegations representing the governments of Thailand and the United Kingdom.

Agreement was reached on all outstanding points between the two countries. In particular, agreement was reached on the levels of capacity to be operated between Bangkok and Hong Kong, the need to enforce approved fares and conditions, and the restoration to the Thai airlines of traffic rights between Hong Kong and Japan.

The delegations also agreed on a number of amendments to the route schedule providing for additional operating flexibility for the airlines of both sides.

Background

The series of talks on air services between the UK and Thailand aeronautical authorities were the third between representatives of the two Governments since last summer, and culminated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding in Bangkok on 24 February 1976.

The talks were requested by the Thai Government who felt they could now come to some agreement with the UK on the UK Government's earlier demands for a reduction in the seating capacity operated by the Thai airlines on the routes between Bangkok and Hong Kong and Hong Kong and beyond.

Price cutting of air fares is prevalent in the Far East to the point where some routes are operated at a loss; this is particularly true of the Bangkok – Hong Kong route. Capacity rationalisation to bring capacity more nearly into line with the traffic demand will help to reduce the fierce competition to fill empty seats which have been a major contributory cause to the price cutting. However, both Governments felt that the matter was of such proportion that a serious attempt should be made to enforce approved fares and conditions.

In view of the Thai Government's agreement to co-operate with the UK Government in rationalising capacity and in the enforcement of approved fares, the UK Government was able to agree the removal of earlier restrictions placed upon the carriage of

Floating breakwater at Ardyne Point

First commercial application of a new form of breakwater developed and designed by Floating Breakwaters Ltd., Chichester – in service at the Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons construction site at Ardyne Point, Scotland. It is protecting a floating pedestrian bridge which also carries pipelines to feed a continuous supply of concrete to the Brent 'C' oil platform under construction some 200m offshore. Formed in timber for speed of construction, the breakwater covers an area 55m long by 18m wide and is sited to protect the most exposed spans of the bridge. Floating Breakwaters Ltd. was formed in 1974 as a subsidiary of Taylor Woodrow International Ltd. and operates in association with the two consulting engineering firms, Harris and Sutherland, and Archibald Shaw and Partners.

traffic between Hong Kong and Japan by the Thai airlines. The two Thai carriers' rights to carry traffic between Hong Kong and Japan and vice versa were suspended with effect from 1 January 1976 following the abortive attempt at talks in November in Bangkok to reach agreement on what reduction in capacity the Thai carriers would make. Now that agreement has been reached the suspension has been lifted with immediate effect.

Transfer of lighthouses in Sri Lanka

The responsibility for four lighthouses in Sri Lanka, which Britain has carried since the last century, will pass on April 1 this year to the Sri Lanka Government under an Agreement signed on 27 February.

The lighthouses, which are important to international shipping, will be administered by the Sri Lanka Ministry of Defence and Foreign Affairs.

The lighthouses are situated at the Great Basses and the Little Basses Reefs off the south-east coast of Sri Lanka, at Dondra Head at the southern tip of the island and at Barberyn, some 30 miles south of Colombo.

The Basses lights were constructed by the British Government in 1873 and 1878, and Dondra Head and Barberyn in 1890.

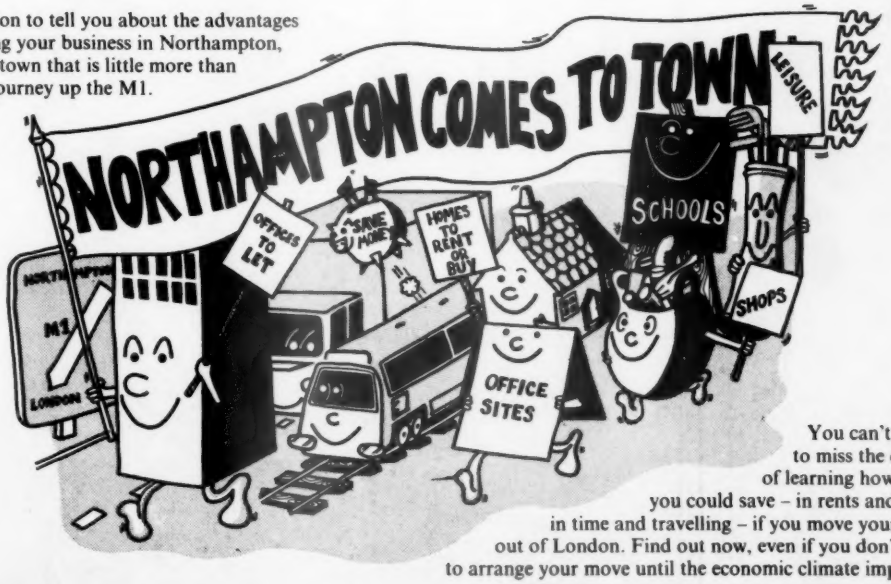
The lighthouses have been maintained by the UK General Lighthouse Fund. Operative and administrative costs since 1969 were as follows: 1969/70 £39,682; 1970/71 £44,176; 1971/72 £51,484; 1972/73 £46,248; 1973/74 £53,802; 1974/75 £62,937.

The General Lighthouse Fund meets the costs of the Lighthouse Authorities in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, and of two other overseas lighthouses, one at Sombrero Island in the Leeward Islands and one in the Falkland Islands.

The Department of Trade controls the expenditure of the fund, whose revenue is derived from light dues levied on shipping sailing from, or calling at, ports in the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic.

The Port of London Authority has been able to save cost by employing Dyno-Rod to clean out chalk and gravel compacted into hollow steel piles when these piles have been extracted for use elsewhere. The PLA commissioned Dyno-Rod to clean out two steel box piles extracted from the river at the site of the old Woolwich pier. Dyno-Rod carried out the job at Gallions Lock, Silvertown in the Royal Docks.

An exhibition to tell you about the advantages of relocating your business in Northampton, an historic town that is little more than an hour's journey up the M1.



You can't afford to miss the chance of learning how much you could save – in rents and rates, in time and travelling – if you move your office out of London. Find out now, even if you don't want to arrange your move until the economic climate improves.

visit the 'Northampton comes to Town' exhibition at the London Press Centre

Tuesday	16 March	09.30 to 18.00
Wednesday	17 March	09.30 to 18.00
Thursday	18 March	09.30 to 18.00
Friday	19 March	09.30 to 15.00

The London Press Centre is in Shoe Lane (between Fleet Street and Holborn Viaduct). No tickets are required and you'll find the entrance to the exhibition in New Street Square.
Nearest underground stations – Chancery Lane and Blackfriars.

Clearance of merger proposals: Selection Trust and Alexander Shand

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the following proposed merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Selection Trust Ltd. and Alexander Shand (Holdings) Ltd.

Durham shop prices surveyed

On 1 March, Durham became the 14th area to have prices in supermarkets and shops scrutinised as part of a series of surveys requested by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

The surveys, organised by the National Federation of Consumer Groups with the support of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, cover a compact area and compare prices of a range of basic foodstuffs and other essential items in a number of named supermarkets, butchers and greengrocers. Results from previous surveys have shown how substantial savings can be made without having to shop around.

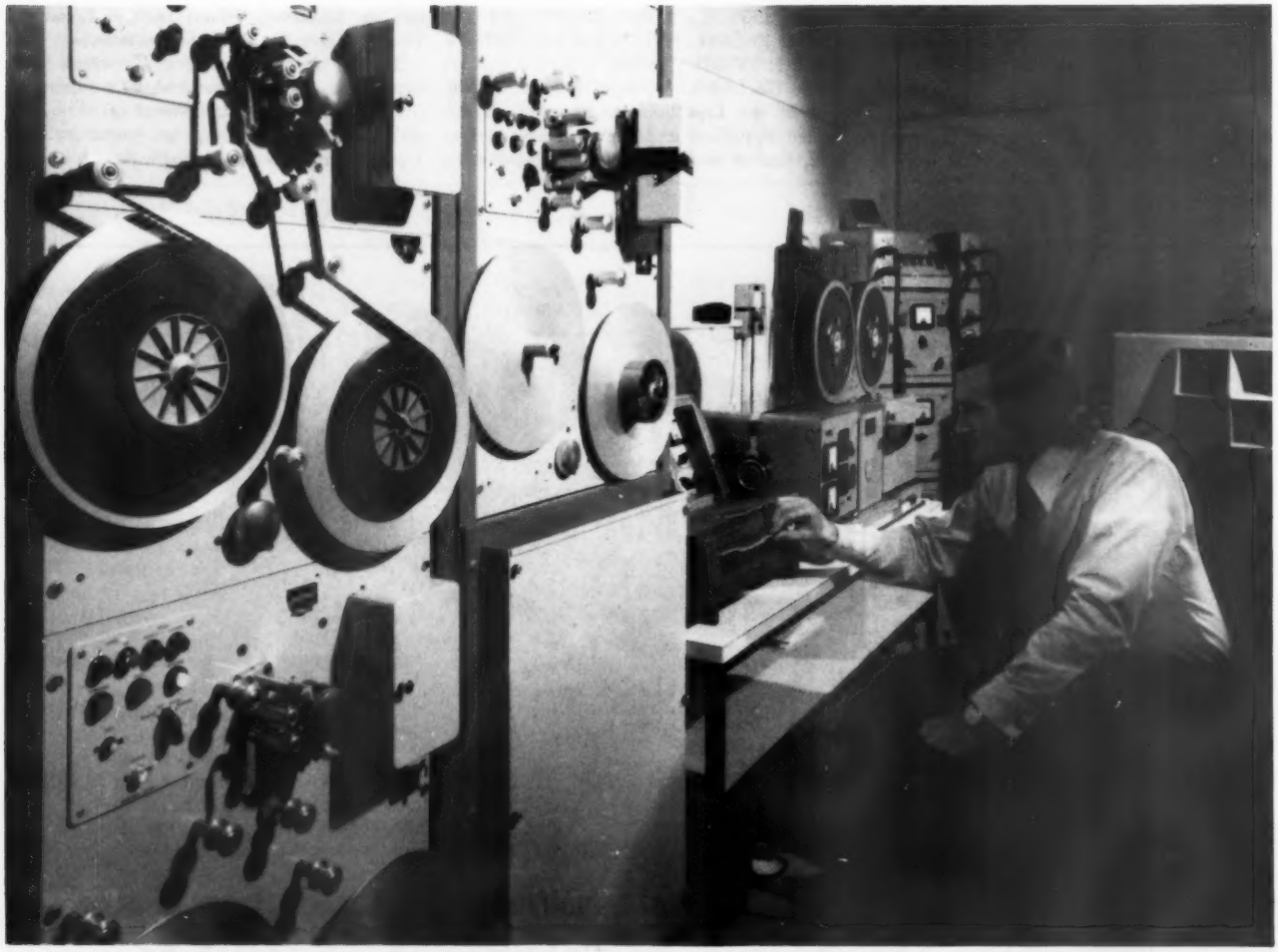
The Durham survey was undertaken by the Durham Consumer Group.

Detailed results of the Durham survey are available from Mrs. J. Middlemass, 53 Grange Road, Belmont, Durham, tel. Durham 64762 (home) and 61264 (school).

Surveys have also been carried out in the Shawlands area of Glasgow, Southend, Cleveland (Redcar), South Humberside (Grimsby), Rushmoor (Farnborough), Hungerford (Berks), Bristol, Letchworth/Baldock (Hertfordshire), Aberdeen, Ashford (Middlesex), Deal, Dover and Perth.

Further surveys will follow. The NFCG members who carry them out are unpaid volunteers. They are being advised by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protion, but the actual checking is done by members of local consumer groups. Each group will make the full results available in the area concerned and in each case a follow-up survey will be made a few weeks later to determine what changes may have taken place.

Sound and film prints overnight service – even to Libya



Sound and film prints delivered overnight is a service offered to the film industry by Rank Film Laboratories, Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex. This has been made possible because sound 'rushes' – such as this 16mm sound negative being recorded from an original 16mm magnetic film – are being handled next to the main processing lines ensuring a smooth turnround of urgent material from Britain and overseas. A good example of this new streamlined service is being provided to a film unit working in Libya. At the end of a day's shooting film and sound track are flown to Britain, processed overnight, and flown back to Libya, the following morning, so that the director can see – and hear – the result of the previous day's labours. The laboratory processes over 4,000,000 ft of film a week.

Consumer advice centres benefit consumer and trader: Alan Williams

Opening the new Consumer Advice Centre in Bridgend on 26 February, Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, spoke of the advantages to consumer and trader by such centres in their role of High Street arbitrators. He said:

'I am grateful for the opportunity to open the Bridgend Advice and Information Centre, which combines the Mid-Glamorgan County Council Consumer Advice Centre with Ogwr Borough Council's Housing Advice and Information Centre. This is one of the first Consumer Advice Centres funded under the Government grant scheme to be open for business. I am particularly glad to see housing and consumer advice under one roof. I welcome the increasing tendency towards one-stop advice.

'All over the country local authorities are pushing ahead as fast as possible with the new Consumer Advice Centres for which the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection has made grants available. We can look forward to having over 120 centres in operation by the end of the year. I am convinced that the common criticisms of these valuable developments are quite misplaced. They are not an unnecessary and wasteful burden on the ratepayer – typically they recoup for consumers (who are also ratepayers) more in compensation from traders than they cost to run. They are not staffed by uncritical trader bashers to whom the consumer, however unreasonable, is always right – they are staffed by skilled advisers whose principle is impartiality. Where Consumer Advice Centres have been set up, traders quickly come to realise that they are fair and impartial between consumer and trader, and that the presence of this kind of arbitrator in the High Street is as useful to traders as it is to consumers.'

Notification scheme for domestic detergents

New chemicals introduced into domestic detergents will in future be subject to screening under a new arrangement between the Government and the detergent industry. Detergent manufacturers have undertaken to inform the Department of the Environment if any new chemicals or changes in levels of ingredients are introduced which might affect the environment. A scrutiny group will be set up by the department to review results of tests carried out by manufacturers to ensure that new detergents are adequately biodegradable and will not harm rivers or sewage treatment processes.

The agreement with the detergent industry follows a recommendation in the 16th report* of the department's Standing Technical Committee on Synthetic Detergents, published on 25 February, that a voluntary notification scheme should be initiated without delay.

The report also draws attention to a new polyglycol (an auxiliary chemical used in textile processing) which is now available and which is 85-90 per cent biodegrabable (biologically decomposable) as against about 20 per cent for some previous polyglycols. The Committee states that the original hard polyglycol contributed to foaming on rivers, especially those flowing through textile industry areas in Yorkshire, and that this foaming could be reduced if the industries changed to the new type of polyglycol. It recommends that the change-over should take place as rapidly as possible.

The Standing Technical Committee on Synthetic Detergents has been in existence since 1957. It is now under the chairmanship of David Price, formerly Assistant Director of the Chemical Division of Water Engineering, Department of the Environment. Mr. Price has been associated with the committee from its inception, acting first as technical secretary and later becoming a member. He succeeded Sir Frederick Warner as chairman in February 1974 when Sir Frederick was appointed to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

Since the EEC commission is issuing directives setting out standards for surfactants (wetting agents) in detergents, it has been agreed that the committee's terms of reference should be extended so that Ministers can be advised of the potential effects of any action proposed by the commission – or other international agency – which concerns the use of surfactants and associated products.

* Sixteenth Progress Report of the Standing Technical Committee on Synthetic Detergents. Available HM Stationery Office, price 65p.

Home accident surveillance system proposed

Proposals for an accident surveillance system are outlined in a document published this week. This was announced by Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, who said in reply to a written Parliamentary question from Ioan Evans, MP (Aberdare):

'Copies of this paper, which describes proposals for the collection of information on accidents in the home, together with a brief analysis of the results of a pilot study in this field, are now available. Copies have been placed in the library and further copies are obtainable from my Department on request.'

The paper sets out the case for the introduction of a system of collecting information on accidents in the home showing how and where they occur, what products are involved and other circumstances at the time.

The proposals for setting up this system are based on the conclusions of a feasibility study, included in the document, which show that information of this kind can lead to greater product safety.

The document will provide additional background for discussions on the Government's recently published Green Paper on Consumer Safety which was featured on the second day of the annual conference of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in Bournemouth this week.

King & Co
Chartered Surveyors
1 Snow Hill,
London, EC1A 2DL
Telephone 01-236 3000
Telex 885485
Also in Manchester,
Leeds & Brussels.

INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Average retail food prices on 13 January

Average retail prices of about 80 important food items on 13 January are shown in the table below. The Department of Employment collects these prices from 200 areas in the UK on one specific day each month for the General Index of Retail Prices. They come from between 500 and 1,000 retailers representative of those from whom the great majority of the population make their purchase. Many of the items vary in quality from retailer to retailer and partly because of these differences there are considerable variations in the prices charged for many items. An indication of these variations is given in the last column of the table, which shows the range of prices within which at least four-fifths of the recorded prices fell. The average prices are subject to sampling error.

Average retail food prices in the United Kingdom: 13 January 1976

Average prices and price range (per lb. unless otherwise stated)

Item	Average price p	Price range From p	Price range To p
Beef: home-killed			
Chuck	69.6	60	76
Sirloin (without bone)	106.3	86	130
Silverside (without bone)*	92.8	84	100
Back ribs (with bone)*	64.3	52	78
Fore ribs (with bone)	62.7	54	74
Brisket (with bone)	61.9	50	74
Rump steak*	122.3	100	140
Beef: imported chilled (b)			
Chuck			
Silverside (without bone)*			
Rump steak*			
Lamb: home killed			
Loin (with bone)	76.6	68	88
Breast*	23.4	15	34
Best end of neck	57.7	36	74
Shoulder (with bone)	51.3	44	60
Leg (with bone)	72.2	64	80
Lamb: imported			
Loin (with bone)	59.7	52	68
Breast*	17.6	12	22
Best end of neck	48.9	36	60
Shoulder (with bone)	42.4	38	46
Leg (with bone)	63.7	58	68
Pork: home-killed			
Leg (foot off)	67.3	58	80
Belly*	48.6	40	57
Loin (with bone)	80.1	70	88
Sausages			
Pork	38.2	34	44
Beef	33.6	28	38
Roasting chicken			
Broiler, frozen 3lb	29.9	25	34
Fresh or chilled, 4lb (oven ready)	35.8	30	42
Fresh fish			
Cod fillets	62.7	52	72
Haddock fillets	67.1	54	80
Haddock, smoked, whole	62.8	50	75
Plaice fillets	80.4	68	95
Halibut cuts	110.3	80	150
Herrings	31.4	24	38
Kippers, (with bone)	40.1	32	48
Fresh vegetables			
Potatoes, old, loose			
White	9.5	8	10½
Red	9.9	8½	11
Potatoes, new, loose			
Tomatoes	32.8	28	38
Cabbage, greens	9.3	6	12
Cabbage, hearted	8.2	5	12
Cauliflower or broccoli	1.55	9	22
Brussels sprouts	12.9	10	16
Peas	†	—	—
Runner beans	†	—	—
Carrots	7.0	5	9
Onions	11.1	9	14
Mushrooms, per ¼lb	11.2	9	13
Fresh fruit			
Apples, cooking	14.1	10	17
Apples, desert	15.0	12	18
Pears, dessert	19.2	15	24
Oranges	13.7	10	18
Bananas	15.7	13	18
Bread			
White, 1½ lb wrapped and sliced loaf	16.5	14	18
White, 1½ lb unwrapped loaf	17.3	16	19
White, 14 oz loaf	11.7	10½	13
Brown, 14 oz loaf	12.5	12	13½
Flour			
Self-raising, per 3 lb	20.0	17	24
Bacon			
Collar*	65.4	56	76
Gammon*	86.8	76	96
Middle cut, smoked*	79.0	70	88
Back, smoked	86.4	72	96
Back, unsmoked	84.2	66	96
Streaky, smoked	67.6	56	78
Ham (not shoulder	107.9	88	128
Pork luncheon meat, 12 oz can	28.7	20	35
Canned (red) salmon, ½-size can	70.1	62	78
Milk, ordinary: per pint	8.5	—	—
Butter			
New Zealand	34.0	31	36
Danish	36.4	34	40
Home produced	36.8	32	42
Margarine (a)			
Standard quality (without added butter)	23.4	21	25
Lower priced	22.4	21	24
Lard	19.9	17	24
Cheese, cheddar type	47.6	40	54
Eggs, per doz.			
Large	39.6	36	46
Standard	34.9	32	40
Medium	31.4	29	35
Sugar, granulated, 2 lb	22.8	21	25
Instant coffee, per 4 oz	42.5	38	50
Tea, per ¼ lb			
Higher priced	12.8	12	13
Medium priced	10.5	9½	12
Lower priced	9.5	8½	10

* Or Scottish equivalent
† Insufficient or no quotations
(a) Now quoted at average price *per lb.*
(b) Imported, chilled beef discontinued from January 1976.
Source: Department of Employment.

Origin marking requirements for prepacked bacon

From 1 April all forms of prepacked uncooked bacon from other countries, other than bottled or canned bacon, which are supplied under a UK name or mark, will be allowed to be marked 'imported' as an alternative to an indication of the country of origin.

This will be the effect of Directions under the Trade Descriptions Act 1972 made on 23 February by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, and published on 1 March. From 1 April 1976 all imported prepacked cooked bacon supplied under a United Kingdom name or mark will have to comply fully with the requirements of the Act.

The Trade Descriptions Act 1972 requires a conspicuous indication of the country of origin to be given when imported goods are supplied under a United Kingdom name or mark. The Secretary of State has power to exempt goods by Statutory Instrument from the requirements of the Act if she is satisfied that the interests of persons to whom the goods are supplied would not be materially impared and that it is desirable to do so.

Prepacked uncooked sliced bacon, other than bottled or canned bacon, is already allowed to be marked 'imported' or with an indication of the country of origin if supplied under a United Kingdom name or mark.

The temporary exemption of prepacked bacon, other than uncooked sliced bacon and bottled or canned bacon, from the requirements of the Act will expire on 31 March 1976.

Copies of the new Directions – Trade Descriptions (Indication of Origin) (Exemptions No. 10) Directions 1976 (SI 1976 No. 260) – are available from HMSO, price 8p.

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A triple reduction epicyclic gear, forming part of the main propulsion unit for one of two bulk carriers at present under construction, is opened for inspection by a Lloyd's Register surveyor. The gear is being produced by W. H. Allen Sons and Co. Ltd., Pershore, Worcs. The gears transmit 11,000 bhp from a heavy-duty marine propulsion gas turbine to a controllable pitch propeller. Auxiliary drives are taken from the third stage reduction gear for a 500kW alternator/motor and for oil pumps supplying the lubricating oil and the propeller hydraulic system. In an emergency, the alternator/motor can drive the propeller through the gears with power provided by auxiliary gas turbine driven alternator.

Britain

Draft guidelines for the National Enterprise Board

Draft guidelines for the National Enterprise Board were published on 1 March by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. They are intended to provide a framework for the operations of the NEB. They include not only certain specific requirements, but also some general policies to guide the board. They may be revised from time to time.
In preparing the draft guidelines the Government has consulted the NEB and the Industrial Development Advisory Board, and has had preliminary consultations with the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress. After a period for public and Parliamentary comment and consideration of views expressed, the Government proposes to give formal effect to the final text by direction to the NEB under section 7 of the Industry Act 1975. Meanwhile the Secretary of State has asked the NEB to observe the draft as interim guidance for current operations. Subject to the guidelines, and to discussion with the Government of its broad strategies and general plans, the intention is that the NEB should have the fullest possible operating freedom.

The general approach

The success of the National Enterprise Board (NEB) will depend on its having a large measure of operational and commercial freedom. It must have the ability to respond quickly to opportunities and competitive forces. At the same time, the NEB's companies should not be given an unfair competitive advantage, whether through the availability of public funds or other means.

The need for operating freedom must be met within a framework of arrangements for accountability to Ministers and thus to Parliament. Accordingly:

1 the Government's oversight will be exercised so far as possible through long-term strategies to be reflected annually in the preparation of medium-term investment plans and year by year budgets;

2 the Government's procedures for assessing the NEB's performance will be clearly defined and should avoid frequent or detailed inquiries;

3 the Government will issue guidelines for the NEB, as set out in this document, covering such matters as acquisitions; criteria for investment decisions; financial objectives; and arrangements for handling such of the NEB's functions as are exercised under direction;

4 the Government will decide from time to time questions of general application, eg on the terms of finance for the NEB, and on its entitlement to Government financial assistance.

The framework for oversight of the NEB's activities

Strategy and plans

The Government will settle with the NEB a broad framework of objectives and strategy to give effect to its statutory purposes and functions which are set out in the Industry Act 1975, with particular reference to the NEB's role in encouraging industrial efficiency, promoting employment and improving the balance of payments, with special regard to export opportunities. The NEB's strategy will take account of the industrial strategy developed in the National Economic Development Council.

Discussions on the NEB's plans each year will provide the Government with an opportunity to consider the NEB's long-term investment programme and annual operating plans. These discussions will enable the Government and the NEB to settle the level of the NEB's borrowing requirements. (Further details are set out in the Annex.)

The arrangements for the general oversight of the NEB's strategy and activities will differ from those relating to the nationalised industries in various respects, for example so far as they concern acquisitions. These often cannot be planned, except in the broadest outline, long in advance. The arrangements made for the NEB will reflect this.

Acquisitions

The Secretary of State intends that in making acquisitions the NEB should have the same opportunities (within an agreed strategy) and the same obligations, and be subject to the same body of good practice, as institutions and companies in private ownership. The NEB and its companies are subject to the fair trading legislation. The NEB shall act in accordance with the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers and the Stock Exchange Listing Requirements where these are relevant. The NEB has no special powers of compulsory acquisition but it has the same rights to acquire shares as are provided to other businesses established under the Companies Act 1948.

When the NEB takes a holding in a company, it will normally seek to do so with the agreement of the company's board. The Government does not accept, however, that the NEB should be able to buy shares in a company only with the agreement of its directors. To do so would place the NEB at a major disadvantage compared with other businesses and would give directors power to override the right of shareholders

Draft guidelines for the NEB

to sell their shares on a voluntary basis. Before acquiring more than 10 per cent by nominal value of the shares carrying unrestricted voting rights in a publicly quoted company without the consent of the directors of that company, the NEB shall inform the Secretary of State what size of holding it would like to secure eventually. This will give the Secretary of State an opportunity to express his views. The NEB, having given a reasonable period of notice, will be free to proceed unless the Secretary of State has indicated that the NEB should not proceed.

In other cases, Section 10 of the Industry Act 1975 requires the NEB and its subsidiaries to obtain the approval of the Secretary of State when the cost of acquiring share capital exceeds £10 million or where the acquisition would give the NEB 30 per cent or more of the voting rights unless the acquisition was covered by a general authority which the Secretary of State had given. (In considering proposals by the NEB the Secretary of State will have regard to the fact that the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers would normally require that a person acquiring 30 per cent or more of the voting stock should make an offer for the whole of the stock and there is therefore a possibility that if the NEB acquired 30 per cent or more of the voting stock that it might be committed to further purchases.) The Secretary of State proposes to give a statutory general authority under which subsidiaries of the NEB may acquire 30 per cent or more of the share capital in a company providing the acquisition is not opposed by the company and the cost of the total shareholding in the company does not exceed £0.5 million.

Before engaging in any activity or making an offer which could involve it in a merger qualifying for reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, under the Fair Trading Act 1973, the NEB shall consult the Director General of Fair Trading (who has the duty of making recommendations to the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection about merger situations qualifying for investigation).

Disposals

In accordance with Section 2(4) of the Industry Act 1975 the NEB has the power to dispose of any securities, including voting shares. In exercising these powers, the NEB shall ensure that the approval of the Secretary of State is obtained to the disposal of any voting shares held by the NEB or its subsidiaries. But the approval of the Secretary of State will not be required for the disposal of voting shares held by NEB subsidiaries where the total value of the shares disposed of does not exceed £0.5 million.

Other financial commitments: loans, guarantees and joint ventures

The NEB may make loans, provide guarantees or engage in joint ventures within a limit of £25 million for each project. Beyond that sum it shall act only with the approval of the Secretary of State, and in all cases the NEB shall give the Secretary of State adequate advance notice of its intentions. The Secretary of State will then decide whether to intervene to prevent or qualify the exercise by the NEB of these powers.

So far as creditors are concerned, the practice of the NEB in relation to companies in which it has a majority shareholding will have regard to the practice of companies in the private sector in relation to their subsidiaries. There will be no Government guarantee to the creditors of such companies unless the Government has undertaken a specific commitment in relation to a company's debts.

Interest payments

When it is borrowing from the Government for investments on its own initiative the NEB will be charged the current rate of interest for loans from the National Loans Fund (NLF). In lending to its subsidiaries or other companies the NEB shall charge a rate of interest not less than that paid by commercial firms of the highest standing when raising finance.

Criteria for investment

Except when it is acting on the direction of the Secretary of State under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975, the NEB, in appraising capital projects, whether undertaken by itself or by its subsidiaries, shall look for an appropriate discounted rate or rates of return on the proposed investment. (The criteria the NEB should use in its appraisals will be determined by the Secretary of State in conjunction with the Treasury.)

The White Paper 'The Regeneration of British Industry' (Cmnd 5710) envisaged that the NEB, in formulating its own acquisition policy, would derive its main strength from the extension of public ownership into profitable manufacturing industry. The NEB shall make acquisitions on its own account only when it sees the prospect of an adequate rate of return within a reasonable period. It will however be open to the NEB to draw the Department's attention to investment needs consistent with its strategy when, with appropriate support from Government sources under the Industry Act 1972 or other legislation, there is a prospect of an adequate return on the NEB's own investment. There may also be other occasions when the NEB is directed by the Secretary of State under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975 to provide assistance to companies in difficulty, and in these cases there may not be a normal return for some time.

Pricing

The NEB and its subsidiaries, being in competition with companies in the private sector, will be free to determine prices for products and services in accordance with the requirement to earn an adequate return on capital and their own commercial judgement. They will however be subject in the same way as other companies to any general Government prices policy and to fair trading legislation. The NEB shall avoid showing undue preference in its trading relationships and shall arrange with its subsidiaries that they avoid this also.

Counter-inflation policy

The NEB shall make arrangements with its subsidiaries to

ensure that, when they are negotiating terms and conditions of employment, settlements reached are consistent with the financial situation of the enterprise and with the requirements to be observed for the period up to 1 August 1976 as set out in the White Paper 'The Attack on Inflation' (Cmnd 6151).

Financial and other objectives

The Industry Act 1975 requires the Secretary of State and the Treasury to satisfy themselves that the financial duties imposed on the NEB are likely, taken together, to result in an adequate return on its capital employed. The NEB is intended to operate primarily within the profitable sectors of manufacturing industry, and its financial objectives will be consistent with its duty of securing the efficient management of the companies in which it has an interest.

The NEB's purposes are wider, however, than those of commercial enterprises. One of its three statutory purposes is the provision, maintenance and safeguarding of productive employment, and it has been said in the White Paper 'The Regeneration of British Industry' and in Ministerial statements that the NEB will have a particularly important role in creating employment in the assisted areas. It will be in a position to take a long-term view, where appropriate, of its investment opportunities. In taking investment decisions it must, however, always have regard to the profitability of the investments.

The NEB's companies will have the same rights as any other companies to Government assistance with the obligations that derive from it. This includes selective financial assistance, regional development grants, the regional employment premium, and the various other incentives provided by the Department of Employment Group. The NEB's companies will also be eligible for support from the Export Credits Guarantee Department, for example, and for support under the Science and Technology Act 1965. On the other hand the NEB and its companies will have the normal liability for taxation except, as provided in the Industry Act 1975, for stamp duty in certain limited circumstances.

The NEB may be directed by the Secretary of State under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975 to assist a company in financial difficulties which needs to be restored to a sound state for reasons of employment or industrial policy. (In some instances a combination of funds on commercial and on assisted terms may be appropriate.) In such circumstances the NEB will be reimbursed specifically for its involvement; and to ensure that its financial discipline is not undermined, these activities will be separately accounted for.

In many cases it may best serve the interests of the economy and the companies concerned if a high proportion of the profits earned by companies in which the NEB has holdings is retained to finance further investment, provided that this will in turn yield an adequate return. The appropriate share of the retained profits of subsidiary or associated companies of the NEB will be taken into account by the Government in assessing the adequacy of the NEB's financial performance.

The Industry Act 1975 authorises the Secretary of State, with the approval of the Treasury, to determine different financial duties for different assets and activities of the NEB. The Government will settle with the NEB separate objectives for its main categories of holdings (including individual objectives for the holdings in very large companies such as Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. or British Leyland Ltd.), and will determine, in consultation with the NEB, into which category each holding will fall.

Functions undertaken under direction

When the NEB assists companies following a direction under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975, the funds will be a charge on Departmental Votes. It follows that the appropriate Accounting Officers will be answerable to the Public Accounts Committee for satisfying themselves that the NEB has adequate arrangements for monitoring the financial assistance provided to companies under direction and that it is operating them effectively. The Department will have a duty to satisfy itself before directions are issued that the NEB has adequate resources for the task and can make appropriate arrangements for giving effect to the directions. The NEB will be responsible for its discharge of functions undertaken under directions and shall draw the Department's attention to any issues that require Departmental action, including variations of the terms of a direction.

As a general principle the Secretary of State will compensate the NEB for costs incurred in providing services to the Government or in undertaking functions at the Secretary of State's direction under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975.

The NEB's wider responsibilities

The NEB's role in planning agreements

The NEB will not have access to information about individual companies supplied to the Government in confidence in the context of planning agreements or to other information supplied by companies to the Government about themselves that cannot properly be made available to a third party. On occasion, with the agreement of the company, the NEB might be invited to participate in discussions of particular issues arising during exchanges on, or arising out of, a planning agreement, for example, on the possibility of participation in joint ventures. There may also be occasions when, in the light of an assessment of information supplied by several companies and an assessment of the circumstances of the sector of industry concerned, the Government decides that the NEB should be invited to take a general initiative. But, when involving the NEB, the Government will have a duty to ensure that information supplied in confidence by individual companies about their affairs is withheld from the NEB.

The NEB's employment responsibilities

The White Paper 'The Regeneration of British Industry' stated that the NEB was to be an instrument through which

Draft guidelines for the NEB

the Government would operate directly to create employment in areas of high unemployment. The Industry Act 1975 reflects this by providing that one of the NEB's purposes is the provision, maintenance or safeguarding of productive employment in any part of the United Kingdom.

The NEB's main help to the areas of high unemployment will come as a result of its own initiatives. But the NEB will also discharge these responsibilities in pursuance of directions made by the Secretary of State to provide assistance from time to time to companies in financial or managerial difficulties. The Government will provide incentives to development by the NEB and its companies in areas of high unemployment through use of the existing powers of regional assistance including those of selective financial assistance under the Industry Act 1972 in accordance with the guidelines and criteria for this assistance and within the provision approved by Parliament.

The NEB is to make appropriate arrangements, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, to ensure that:

1 the NEB can effectively discharge its employment responsibilities in areas of high unemployment, particularly through regional offices in the North East and North West of England;

2 in considering the expansion of an existing operation or the development of a new undertaking, the NEB examines the case for location in an area of high unemployment with a particular intent to site the development if possible in such an area.

The NEB and its companies will be subject to the normal industrial development certificate and planning controls and the Secretary of State will keep the NEB closely informed of the Government's employment objectives so that the NEB's plans may take full account of them. In considering the NEB's strategic plans the Secretary of State will have regard to their implications for employment.

Relations with other Agencies

The NEB shall develop effective arrangements for consultation and collaboration with the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies and with the Northern Ireland Finance Corporation. These arrangements will be such as to ensure that the NEB consults the Agencies before taking action on proposals affecting companies with significant interests in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. At the same time the Agencies will take the initiative in dealing with companies which are wholly or predominantly of concern to them but will consult the NEB as necessary.

Industrial democracy

The Industry Act 1975 states that one of the functions of the NEB is the promotion of industrial democracy in undertakings it controls. The NEB shall take, to the satisfaction of the Government, adequate steps to see that in accordance with Government policies for industry generally, management in these enterprises is playing its part in providing for the full involvement of employees in decision making at all levels. The NEB will have freedom to conduct experiments in the light of its own needs and experience and the views of the workers concerned.

Interests of consumers

As already mentioned, the NEB and its companies are subject to fair trading legislation and to the Government's general prices policy in the same way as private companies. In addition the NEB shall make arrangements with its subsidiaries so that procedures are established in their undertakings to ensure that the interests of consumers are taken adequately into account.

Interest in the media

Section 9 of the Industry Act 1975 obliges the NEB to dispose of any interest it may acquire in a newspaper, magazine or periodical unless the Secretary of State considers that this would cause serious commercial injury to the publication. (It also requires the NEB to obey any direction given by the Independent Broadcasting Authority in respect of any contract for the provision of programmes which it may acquire.) The Act also requires the NEB to limit its influence to financial and commercial matters in any interests which it does retain: in such circumstances the NEB shall make appropriate arrangements, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, to ensure that it has no responsibility for, or influence on, editorial functions.

Parliamentary control

The Secretary of State will be answerable to Parliament for the exercise of powers provided under the Industry Act 1975. But in accordance with the general principle that the NEB should have commercial and operating freedom, the Secretary of State will not use his powers of specific direction to intervene in day-to-day matters.

Industrial Development Advisory Board (IDAB)

The Industry Act 1975 provides that the role of the Industrial Development Advisory Board, in advising the Secretary of State in respect of the exercise of his functions under Section 7 or Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972, shall extend to his functions under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975. IDAB will give advice on all applications which might subsequently be the subject of a Section 3 direction to the NEB.

Government oversight of the NEB

Annual planning cycle

The NEB will prepare – and revise annually – a Corporate Plan setting out its strategy for the following years. The preparation and review of the Corporate Plan will provide the framework for discussions with the Department of the NEB's objectives whether in terms of financial targets, investment and the proportion of investment in the Assisted Areas, employment, improvements in efficiency or exports. The NEB's performance over the year will be assessed in the light of agreed objectives.

As part of this planning cycle, the NEB will provide annually an investment and financing programme, covering the period of the Public Expenditure Survey, for consideration by the Department in conjunction with the Treasury. This annual submission will provide an opportunity for the Department and the NEB to have detailed discussions on the measures needed to meet the NEB's objectives. Given the wide range of activities which will be undertaken by the NEB, the annual review will be divided into parts relating to:

1 existing NEB holdings (with particular attention to the activities of large companies);

2 acquisitions, joint ventures and new ventures;

3 assistance operations;

with a discussion of the balance between them.

The annual discussions will also enable the Department, in consultation with the Treasury, to set a ceiling to the amount of Government funds – whether by way of advances from the National Loans Fund or Public Dividend Capital (PDC) – which the NEB should receive during the next financial year.

Within the annual total borrowings agreed for the NEB at the annual investment review, sums will be advanced on evidence of proof of need for the NEB's business purposes. To provide the finance for day-to-day operations the NEB will be authorised to make overdraft arrangements with its bankers in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 2 of the Industry Act 1975.

Approval of major decisions

The NEB's annual investment review, in contrast with that of the typical nationalised industry (which has a clearly defined on-going business) will not provide a comprehensive basis for settling the main lines of the NEB's activities. Opportunities for investment, whether by acquisition, joint venture, or new venture, will occur throughout the year. For this reason Ministers will need special arrangements for consultation with the NEB about major decisions as they arise.

Retention of profits

After allowing for interest on borrowings from the NLF and dividend payments on PDC, the NEB may apply its profits to furthering its statutory purposes, subject to the constraints on individual cases set out in the Guidelines.

Relations with very large companies

The planning agreement system will apply to major NEB companies. The agreement will be with the company concerned but negotiations will take place within a framework of reference that the company had settled with the NEB.

The Government will take a close interest in the performance, plans and prospects of the very large companies whose shares are vested in the NEB, such as British Leyland Ltd. or Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. In doing so, it will reflect the undertaking given to the House of Commons by the Prime Minister on 24 April 1975 that British Leyland 'will be required to put forward annual business plans before further funds are provided covering improvement in industrial relations and productivity and putting forward precise investment and operating programmes for specific Government approval within the new system of planning agreements . . . The aim will be to satisfy the criteria for the provision of public funds on such a vast scale while at the same time allowing the company to operate on an effective commercial basis without day-to-day Government intervention'.

Additional copies of the draft guidelines may be obtained from D. Murray, Department of Industry, Room 1812, Millbank Tower, Millbank, SW1P 4QU.

Are your problems building up?

Some constructive answers from the Building Research Advisory Service

by Jennifer Clarke

Left: wind damage to the roof of a school building – the roof is in the foreground. Right: as a result of cracking, the strain on a construction joint is measured underneath the concrete base of a swimming pool in Glasgow.

Dirt has been defined as matter in the wrong place. As a generalisation, this could equally well apply to many building problems. According to the Building Research Advisory Service, for instance, over half the questions they receive are concerned with water getting in where it is not wanted.

The case of the problem pool

In the case of swimming pools water in the wrong place is perhaps not surprising, but the fact remains that with this type of building, various factors have tended to increase the complexity of the problem in recent years.

To begin with, attitudes seem to have become less spartan; the water temperature, which used to be a bracing 65° (18° C) is now more often 75° (24° C) with the temperature of the surrounding air as high as 80° and there are now hot showers in the changing rooms. At the same time, designs have changed with more glass used, both in walls and ceilings. The heating is often turned down at night and with outside temperatures near freezing point this can lead to heavy condensation.

There may be several separate problems on the same site, and this was certainly true in the case of the collapse of the timber roof of a school swimming pool at Ilford, which was investigated by the Building Research Establishment.

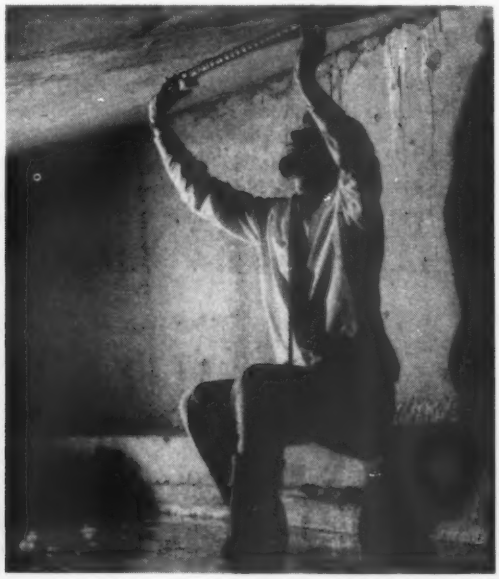
It is already known that when the moisture content of wood increases to beyond 20-25 per cent, this can lead to decay, unless it is treated with preservative or a durable species of timber is used. Nails can also become corroded and unless a glue of the phenol or resorcinol-formaldehyde type has been applied, the glue bond can deteriorate.

It has also been discovered that when condensation varies throughout the year, due to changes in roof temperature, the repeated changes in moisture content cause an increase in the deflection of the timber.

The roof collapsed at Ilford when seven of the plywood box beams over the pool fractured. The laminated timber roof had been constructed 13 years ago, before the present regulations came into force which specified which glues could be used. No one realised that because the roof space was largely unventilated, heavy condensation would occur in the roof void. The dead load of the structure had been increased considerably by extra layers of felt and chippings, which had been added five years after the roof had been constructed. This had also removed the camber so that ponds of rainwater formed. In this case the collapse was caused by the cumulative effects of condensation and overloading on the roof – factors which, individually, might not have been sufficient to account for the failure but which formed a fatal combination.

The Building Research Advisory Service

This type of investigation, carried out by scientists at the Building Research Establishment becomes another source of reference for the



Building Research Advisory Service, set up to advise on general construction problems. This includes questions arising out of the design, construction or performance of a building and is based on centres at Watford, Birmingham, Borehamwood, Princes Risborough and Glasgow. Last year the Service dealt with 37,000 telephone inquiries, about 7,800 letters and consultations and 350 longer investigations.

There is no charge for published information, if it can be passed on to the inquirer, without a special search. If further study of the problem is required, drawings can be submitted for advice on 'how to do it' or 'why it went wrong and what to do about it'. If documents in themselves are not enough, an adviser can visit the site, or a laboratory examination can be arranged but the Service does not undertake routine testing. Charges are, however, made for advisory work which involves research and a lengthy answer and for consultations and investigations involving laboratory work and site visits.

According to Jim Nelson, head of the Service, often a designer or builder does not recognise when he should be seeking advice or when he has a problem. If questions are not raised at the start, it is more difficult to advise after the failure has occurred.

Clients range from professional builders, architects, surveyors, civil engineers, planners and contractors to occupiers and the owners of buildings.

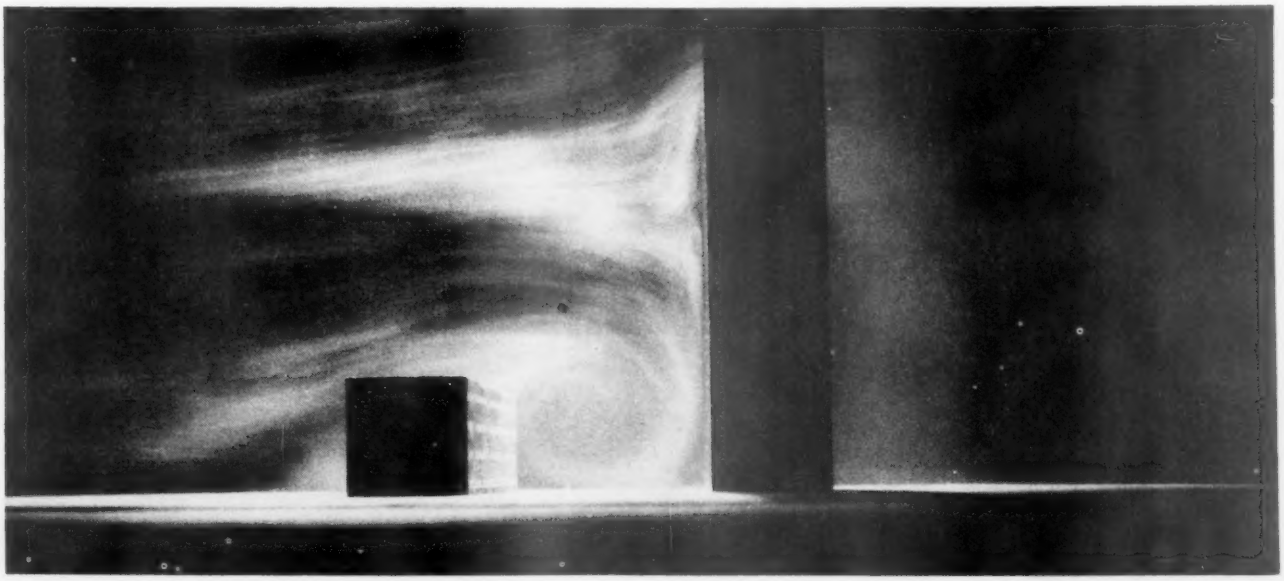
During 1970-74 the Building Research Advisory Service made detailed investigations of over 500 defective buildings on which advice had been sought. While not necessarily representative of the country as a whole (probably only the more intractable problems are included) the survey indicated some significant weaknesses in design and construction.

Half the defects investigated were varieties of dampness. Surface condensation proved to be a problem, particularly in council housing. Inadequate heating or ventilation was to blame but in some cases the construction provided only the minimum of thermal insulation, expecting the tenants to use a more expensive heating system than perhaps they could afford. There were also cases of entrapped water during construction, for instance with heavy concrete roof structures where the insulation was in the form of aerated concrete screeds. Rain or snow falling during the construction period could mean that the so-called 'dry' insulating screeds gave trouble. Only a few cases of rising damp were reported.

Cracking and detachment, usually of finishes or veneers, comprised two-thirds of all defects other than dampness. Detachment of brick slips (thin slices of brick usually used round the edges as a sort of veneer), or rendering, was a common cause of complaint in multi-storey framed flats. Shrinkage and creep of the frame, often combined with expansion of the brick infilling, placed unintentional loads on the slips or rendering covering the edges of the floor slabs Normally no provision had been made in the design for this differential movement.

In 58 per cent of cases, faulty design was the cause of the defect, for instance, choosing the wrong adhesive for floor tiles on a heated subfloor, or using the wrong cavity fill, or leaving out the solar reflective treatment on flat roofs, or providing inadequate support for lightweight partitions. Faulty execution of the work on site was diagnosed in 35 per cent of failures and poor execution of damp-proof membranes, flashings and cavity trays was also frequent. Even when the design was satisfactory, a damp-proof layer might be incomplete or absent. Leaking mastic joints, mostly to windows, were also an important cause of failure, usually because of careless application.

With short-comings in design, it is difficult to decide whether there is a failure to appreciate the importance of Codes, Standards and Agreement Certificates, or whether the problem arises from the sheer volume of guidance available. Many buildings let in water because of patent design faults – as the survey comments, 'the masterpiece which leaks' is still with us. This could be because some architects ignore the available literature, preferring to think that every problem can be worked out from first principles.



Smoke 'visualisation' taken in one of the wind tunnels, showing the typical flow around a model of a tall building, wind blowing from left to right.

The case of the draughty precinct

As part of the Building Research Establishment, the Advisory Service can arrange for the use of specialised equipment such as the wind tunnels. It is now recognised that tall buildings, presenting an obstacle to the wind, deflect the air along various streams and channels to produce conditions which may differ markedly from those previously experienced. In several shopping areas this has led to cold, windy precincts and consequent loss of trade. In the case of the Merrion Centre, Leeds, for instance, the architects approached the Building Research Establishment soon after completion of the development in 1964 when they found that conditions there were much less pleasant than in neighbouring streets.

The development consisted of an office building, 45m high, standing on the east side of a shopping precinct, with buildings, two- and five-storeys high on the west side. A wind tunnel study using the architects' model showed that the highest wind speeds occurred on the pedestrian deck and at ground level when westerly winds, deflected downwards at the face of the slab, swept outwards and round the ends of the precinct. An inspection of the site confirmed that these were the regions most affected.

Making the air flow visible in the wind tunnel can be achieved by introducing a white smoke of vaporised paraffin or small soap bubbles at appropriate points. To study surface flows, a suspension of a powdered fluorescent pigment in thin oil can be used; this gradually becomes scoured away from high speed areas, leaving a picture of average wind flow directions over the whole surface.

In the case of the Merrion Centre, subsequent model tests showed that speeds in the precinct were considerably reduced when a roof was added to shelter the shoppers. This has since been constructed and now provides a pleasant environment.

It is easy to undervalue this type of study – to ignore the action of buildings in deflecting the wind down to street level, or the fact that the relative height of a building can increase adverse conditions. But the danger associated with high wind speeds was illustrated by two deaths in 1972. In one case an old lady died of a fractured skull after being blown over at the corner of a 16-storey building in Portsmouth. (The wind speed at the time was estimated at 24-30 metres per second.)

The case of peeling paint

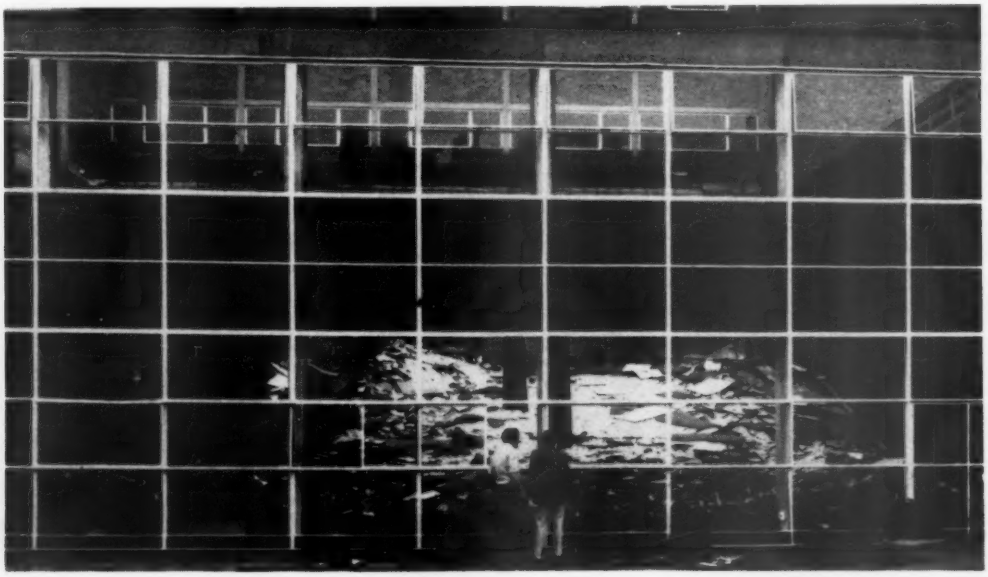
There are some recurring problems, despite literature being available. The Advisory Service still gets letters with, clipped to the top of the paper, a leathery sample of paint. Why has it come off the wall? This is usually because the paint has been applied to a wet surface, or because of the presence of salts or alkali in conjunction with moisture, or because the paint and the background are not matched. It is as well to remember, when repainting, that the background must be sound, clean, dry and dust free and the paint selected compatible with it.

The case of the threatening tree

Much information has also been published on the subject of trees and shrinkable clay, although this does not prevent regular inquiries on the subject. Traditional brick or masonry buildings on heavy clay soils are often damaged when the clay shrinks. This is due to the extraction of moisture by the roots of grasses, plants and trees; it happens most often in the south-east of England where clay soils are common and rainfall is low.

If the foundations of the building are within the zone where seasonal and long-term movements of the clay occur, distortion of the structure can result, and this can appear in the form of cracking in the walls of the house. One of the classic features of this type of case is that the cracks open and widen and doors jam during dry weather in late summer and partially close again in the winter, when the doors become easier to move.

It has been estimated that roots can extend up to one-and-a-half times the height of the tree, especially if they are driven in one direction if, for instance, a new car park is put down, reducing the water supply in a particular area.



Left: Ronan Point – an example of progressive collapse. Right: staff from the Building Research Establishment at the site of the collapse at Camden School for Girls in June 1973, making a preliminary examination of the debris.

Conversely, if large trees are removed from a clay site, the ground swells, so it is essential to wait for several months until the movement of the ground finishes before starting to build.

The case of the sinking houses

Some houses in Wales were being underpinned because they appeared to be sinking but this treatment did not seem to be having the right effect. Investigation by the Building Research Establishment revealed that the houses were not subsiding at all, but were actually rising. Under the foundations there was colliery shale, which had not been properly weathered. The shale expanded, pushing the building up, and since it was not inert, sulphates in the shale also attacked the concrete.

The case of falling tiles

Recent fashions in architecture have included putting tiles on the outside of external walls and in some cases fashion has been ahead of workmanship. The contractors have failed to allow for the fact that the concrete to which they are fixed dries out and shrinks. The tiles suffered no similar movement and subsequently cracked and fell out.

The case of the cracking brickwork

As they get wet, bricks expand, whereas concrete, protected from the weather, dries out and shrinks. These differences led to an investigation of a three-storey block of flats built in early 1973, when unsightly cracks appeared in the outside walls. Movement at the corners of the building and vertical cracking on the shorter end elevations were attributed to expansion of the bricks, caused by heat and/or moisture. It was suggested by the Building Research Advisory Service that vertical expansion joints should be formed at or near the corners, with dowel bars to ensure stability. The cracks could be pointed with a mastic, coloured to match the bricks.

Horizontal plaster cracks in the top flats were due to differential movement between the concrete and the brickwork. Such cracks will always occur, caused by drying shrinkage in the edge beam and thermal movement of the roof slab, unless a joint or cut is made through the plaster.

The case of the vibrating bus garage

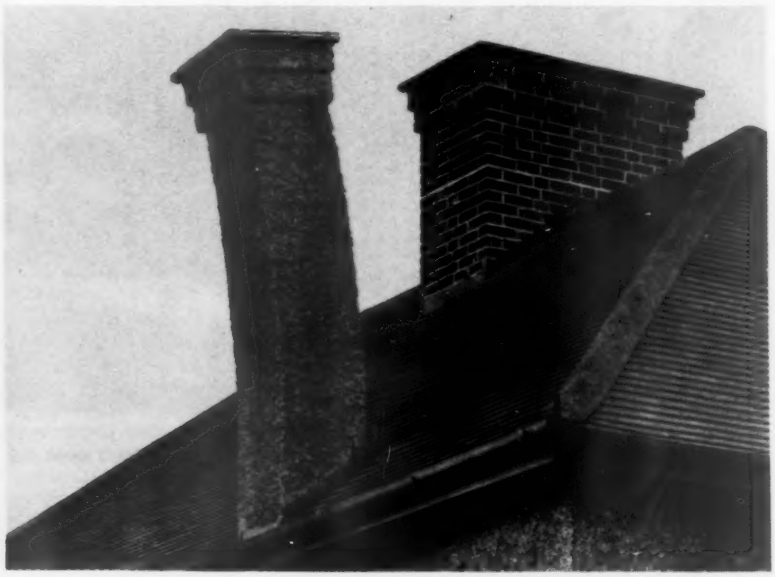
One of more unusual investigations carried out by the Building Research Advisory Service was the case of the disco which was on the first floor over a bus garage. The ceiling of the latter moved up and down through such a wide arc that there were fears for safety. A casual passer-by might have been surprised to observe scientists arriving in the middle of the night, settling down in the bus garage while the disc-jockey in the disco played a succession of records, for purposes which were not immediately, if ever, apparent. 'Rock Around the Clock' was played the most frequently not because it was a personal favourite but because it was alleged the roof beams were vibrating in sympathy and this particular piece of music was the one by which they (the roof beams) were most moved. Despite appearances, the garage was declared to be safe.

The case of the crooked chimney

For several years, there were many inquiries about why chimneys bend, although interest in this subject has now lapsed. The problem arose when new types of appliance were introduced, which sent cooler flue gases up the chimney, and more heat into the house. The cooler fumes condensed in the chimney, particularly on the North East. If the chimney were unlined, sulphates in the fumes would attack the mortar, causing it to expand and this would make the chimney bend towards the south-west – a phenomenum once so regular as to be a useful indicator of direction. The only remedy was to put a lining in the chimney and this is now required by Building Regulations.

Contact point

The Building Research Advisory Service, Building Research Establishment, Garston, Watford WD2 7JR. Tel. Garston (Herts) 76612.



Left: peeling paint. Right: leaning chimney stack caused by uneven expansion of brickwork due to condensation in the flue – a rare sight nowadays, since under present regulations, all chimneys must be lined.

Technology News

Dumping nuclear waste materials at sea

Dumping at sea is the most suitable method of disposing of solid low activity radioactive waste in the United Kingdom, Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said this week.

The UK, which has disposed of this type of waste since 1949, now has a further quantity judged by the Government to be suitable for disposal in the deep ocean. In accordance with international recommendations the Government is proposing to discuss this disposal with the member states of the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), Mr. Benn said.

Mr. Benn was answering a Parliamentary Question from Mr. James Dempsey, MP (Coatbridge and Airdrie).

In a written reply Mr. Benn said: 'Disposal is a term used to mean dispersal into an environmental medium or emplacement in a facility either engineered or natural with the intention of taking no further action apart from any necessary monitoring. The disposal of all radioactive waste is controlled by the Radioactive Substances Act 1960, which is administered jointly by the Secretary of State for the Environment (or for Scotland or for Wales as appropriate) and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Prior authorisation by the Departments concerned is a statutory requirement before any radioactive waste may be consigned to a sea disposal operation.

'There are the following broad categories of radioactive waste which have to be dealt with: low activity effluent which is discharged locally to the environment within authorised limits, low activity solid contaminated waste which may be buried on land or dumped in ocean deeps as appropriate, and higher activity fission product and associated waste which must be stored to isolate it from the environment.

'The UK has disposed of low activity radioactive waste in the sea since 1949. In 1967, the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the OECD agreed to arrange sea disposal operations to establish on an international basis the means by which solid radioactive waste could be safely disposed of at sea without damage to the marine environment, and also to evolve co-operatively the necessary operational techniques. The UK has participated since 1967 in annual international operations organised by the NEA, except in 1968 and 1970 when there was no NEA operation and the UK undertook its own sea disposal operation.

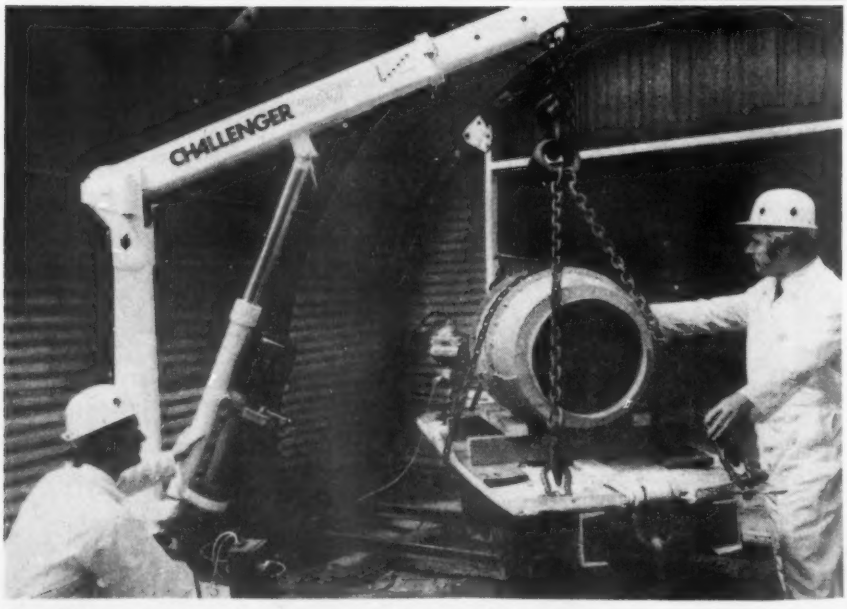
'The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), one of the specialised agencies of United Nations, is also concerned with radioactive waste management questions including sea disposal. In 1958 a panel of experts from member states, convened under the chairmanship of H. Brynielsson of Sweden, drew up guidelines, published in 1961, for disposal of solid radioactive waste at sea. More recently the IAEA in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Waste and other Matter, 1972, normally referred to as the London Convention, has recommended limits to the quantities and categories of radioactive waste which may be dumped in the sea. Sea disposal operations in which the UK has participated have been well within the limits recommended by the IAEA.

'In the light of the advice of the National Radiological Protection Board supported by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive it is the judgement of the authorising Departments that dumping in the deep ocean is the most suitable method of disposal of solid low activity radioactive waste arising in the UK.

'We have a considerable quantity of low activity plutonium contaminated solid radioactive waste which the Government is advised is suitable for disposal in the deep ocean.

'The London Convention permits individual countries to dispose of radioactive waste at sea within the limits recommended by the IAEA.

'Moreover, the contracting parties to the Convention of which the United Kingdom is one have pledged themselves to promote within the specialised agencies measures to protect the marine environment against pollution by radioactive materials. For the sea dumping of these increased quantities of wastes in accordance with IAEA recommendations, we propose to discuss with the member states of the NEA the ways in which that organisation's experience in sea disposal could best be utilised to assist member states wishing to dump radioactive waste at sea within the framework of the London Convention.'



One of the range of new hydraulic cranes introduced by Challenger Handling, part of the Engineering Component Group (Turner and Newall). Designed for working in a confined space, the Challenger 2000 has been built to NCB Specification 579/1974 and the National Coal Board worked with the firm during its development. The range also includes demountable cranes with 1-2 ton capacity and extension from 1.5-2.45m, static cranes and a 2-ton mobile unit. Vehicle-mounted cranes are suitable for any vehicle of 35 cwt and over and the equipment meets all British Standards safety requirements. Prices range from £900-£1,200, fitted.

Problem clinics

As part of its general support to the Committee for Industrial Technologies (CFIT) programme, the National Materials Handling Centre is re-introducing a series of problem clinics on the lines of those held successfully a few years ago.

The general theme for 1976 is 'How to Buy', associated with the following categories of materials handling equipment: adjustable pallet racking, Thursday, 11 March; computer systems, Wednesday, 12 May; fork lift trucks, Wednesday, 7 July; packaging conveyors, Thursday, 23 September; small components systems, Wednesday, 1 December.

The format for each meeting is that five specialist speakers are asked to state their views on different subjects relating to the main topic and at the end of each short presentation the subject is thrown open for general discussion.

A charge of £5 per head, inclusive of buffet luncheon is made for each meeting. Registration is 10.15 a.m. for a 10.30 a.m. start at: Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield, Bedford.

Towards remote and automatic control of mining machines

'Britain's accelerated mining research and development effort is paving the way – not just for this country, but for Europe and the world – to the enhanced technology we shall surely need as our economies turn once more to coal in meeting their energy requirements,' Sir Derek Ezra, National Coal Board Chairman, said this week at Stanhope Bretby, near Burton-on-Trent, on a visit to the Board's Mining Research and Development Establishment. 'We are doing work here on two developments which are likely to produce the next significant advance in the industry's productivity – remote and automatic control of mining systems and full mechanisation of operations at the ends of coal faces.

'The first task is to ensure that we have complete reliability of systems and their component parts. This vital proving work is therefore one of the main objectives of the current research programme. The eventual introduction of remote control and automation will be based on the use of minicomputers.

'For the ends of coal faces we are developing methods of combining several machines involved in all operations about the roadhead into integrated, reliable systems. At the same time we are moving towards increasing the make of coal won from each traverse of the coalcutting machine and to greater reliability from the armoured flexible conveyor to carry the coal away from the face.

'Getting the machinery that will match the advance of the service tunnels to the new high speeds at which face machines can win the coal is tremendously important to our efficiency.'

Sir Derek saw trials of some of this equipment when he visited three test galleries on the Establishment's 25-acre test site at Swadlincote. He was able, too, to watch instruments developed for underground use that measure the performance of coalface equipment in actual working conditions.

Sir Derek said that our mining research and development effort was essential – the importance to world mining could be judged by the collaboration agreements reached with the United States, Canada, Poland and the USSR, as well as our close links with Germany, France and Belgium.

MRDE currently had 28 contracts for projects receiving support from the European coal and steel community. Nine more were to start this year. Together they represented community research aid of more than £1.6 million towards the Establishment's total programme expenditure of £11.6 million.

'Now we are looking at the returns that we get from exploitation of MRDE developments in home and foreign markets. It is, of course, not enough to develop new machines and new technology.' Sir Derek added. 'We have to ensure their effective transfer into the industry.'

It had been arranged for compact packages to be applied in several collieries to build up knowledge of the new systems. A training centre at the Establishment was also being set up, to train instructors from the mining Areas.

Further aspects of the Establishment's work which Sir Derek saw included computerised automatic control of main underground coal conveyors, instruments for monitoring the underground environment and a coalcutting machine operated by automatic steering.

The use of concrete in the North Sea

Seven research projects on the use of concrete as a structural material for North Sea oil and gas platforms have now been announced. The two-year programme will provide additional knowledge to improve platform design and construction procedures and long-term performance.

The Department of Energy is to provide £200,000 towards the cost of the programme and the remaining £100,000 has been promised by industry to CIRIA Underwater Engineering Group.

The programme of work, originally drawn up by the Cement and Concrete Association at the request of the Department, has been discussed and generally agreed within the offshore industry.

A three-man committee will manage the programme and will be drawn from the Department of Energy and the Underwater Engineering Group, to represent the contributors, and the Cement and Concrete Association, which will provide the technical management.

The following seven projects are included in the programme: fundamental mechanism of corrosion of steel reinforcement in concrete immersed in sea water; designing against corrosion in offshore concrete gravity structures; effects of temperature gradients on walls of oil storage structures; survey of existing reinforced concrete marine structures; strength of large prestressed concrete members in shear; fatigue strength of reinforced and prestressed concrete in sea water; and modes of failure of concrete platforms.

How to detect cracks

An understanding of fracture mechanics, and how to apply them is the aim of a one-day fracture mechanics course which will be held at the Department of Industry's National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, Glasgow, on Wednesday, 24 March 1976.

The course is intended for designers and others who need to take design decision on structures known or suspected to contain cracks or crack-like defects.

It aims to provide an understanding of the basic concept of fracture mechanics and how these apply to study of fracture toughness and fatigue crack growth. Designers are then aware of the possible use of a fracture mechanics approach to particular problems.

Examples of successful application of fracture mechanics to practical engineering problems are covered. These include railway equipment case histories where use of fracture mechanics has resulted in increased operational safety and should result in economic benefits.

Further inquiries to Fergus Duncan, Conference Section, NEL, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QU (tel. East Kilbride 20222, ext. 547).

Fixed offshore structures – £2.6 million for research

The Department of Energy is to provide over £2.6 million over the next three years on research into fixed offshore structures John Smith, Minister of State at the Department of Energy indicated this week. Of this, £2.3 million is to be spent on research into steel structures and the remainder on research into concrete structures.

Mr. Smith was replying to a Parliamentary question from Mrs. Renee Short (Wolverhampton, North East) who asked the Secretary of State for Energy if he would publish a table showing the research being undertaken by his department on fixed concrete and steel offshore structures, separately listed, together with the moneys allocated for each project and the names of the contractors of each, during 1976, in 1977-78, and up to 1980, respectively.

Replying, Mr. Smith said: 'Much of the research work supported by my Department is applicable to offshore installations of any form of construction, and includes programmes on environmental data collection; wind, wave and current forces; foundations; and inspection and repair.'

He then went on to mention the UK Offshore Steels Research Programme, being carried out by the Welding Institute, National Engineering Laboratory; studies of buckling of steel, at Glasgow University, Cambridge University and fullscale measurements on Forties FB Platform, being made by British Petroleum.

Four programmes to study concrete structures were underway, the offshore concrete research programme (based on 'Concrete in the Oceans' report) for which the principal contractors were Underwater Engineering Group of Construction Industry Research and Information Association (as joint managers), Cement and Concrete Association, and others to be appointed; corrosion of steel reinforcement in concrete by the Atomic Energy Research Establishment; guide to temperature effects in offshore oil-containing concrete structures being carried out by the Underwater Engineering Group of Construction Industry Research and Information Association; and fullscale measurements on Brent B Platform, by Shell.

Parliament

Monday, 23 February

Costs of publicity

Mrs. Winifred Ewing (Moray and Nairn) asked the Secretary of State for Industry: 'What has been the total cost of publicity incurred by his department in the years 1973, 1974 and 1975; and what is the estimate for 1976, broken down into relevant headings?'

Mr. Carmichael gave the following figures:

Department of Trade and Industry	1973-74 *
	£
Advertising	2,931,100
Exhibitions	90,200
Films and TV	91,100
Radio	600
Photographs	500
Publications	200,000
Despatch	161,400
	3,474,900

Department of Trade and Industry	1974-75
Advertising	446,300
Exhibitions	135,100
Films and TV	75,900
Overseas Press/Radio	900
Photographs	2,000
Publications	53,200
	713,400

Department of Industry	1975-76 (forecast)
Advertising	495,700
Exhibitions	70,600
Films and TV	82,000
Photographs	2,500
Publications	103,200
Despatch	3,400
	757,400

Department of Industry	1976-77 (estimated provision)
Advertising	597,800
Exhibitions	125,600
Films and TV	97,300
Radio	600
Photographs	3,500
Publications	85,300
Despatch	4,200
	914,300

* Includes expenditure on behalf of Department of Energy.

Machine tool industry

Mr. Geoff Edge (Aldridge-Brownhills) asked if aid would be given to the machine tool industry for stock building.

Mr. Carmichael replied: 'As announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 12 February, the National Enterprise Board is discussing with the machine tool industry possible arrangements for financing the stockpiling of machine tools on a commercial basis. The industry is already benefiting from orders stimulated by assistance given under the Industry Act, especially the assistance given for bringing forward deferred investment projects and the assistance to British Leyland.'

South Yorkshire

Mr. Edwin Wainwright (Dearne Valley) asked how many new jobs have been created in the South Yorkshire intermediate area over each of the past three years; and what plans there are to bring more jobs into the district.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'Industrial Development Certificates approved in the last three years covered projects expected to create the following jobs: 1973 – 4,760; 1974 – 4,390; and 1975 – 710. Intermediate Area industrial incentives are available in South Yorkshire in order to encourage the creation of new jobs. Moreover South Yorkshire stands to benefit from the various new measures announced by the Government to combat unemployment and to encourage industrial investment.'

Long haul air services

Mr. Neil Marten (Banbury) asked the Secretary of State for Trade to publish the letter sent to him by the Civil Aviation Authority expressing the view that wider discretion should be left to the licensing system in the control of long haul scheduled services.

Mr. Clinton Davis gave the following information:

'In my Rt. Hon. Friend's statement to the House on 11 February 1976 (*Official Report* Vol. 905 Cols. 442-452) he reported the CAA's views. The text of the chairman's letter is as follows:

"I am writing to confirm what I told you at our meeting on 6 February as to the Authority's views on the new Guidance on which you consulted it in accordance with Section 3 (2) of the Civil Aviation Act 1971.

"The Authority is appreciative of the care and attention which you and your officers have given to its informal representations during the drafting of the Guidance and the modifications which have been incorporated in it as the result of discussions with members and officers of the Authority.

"The Authority at its meeting on 5 February considered the draft of the Guidance as it then stood and treated the submission to it of that draft as the consultation required under the Act of 1971.

"I was directed to tell you that with the substantial exception referred to in the following paragraph the Authority is content with the new Guidance.

"The Authority, however, instructed me to convey to you that it dissents from the provisions of paragraph 7 of the draft of the new Guidance in so far as they are intended to and would have the effect of inhibiting the Authority from granting even in the most exceptional circumstances an Air Transport licence to more than one British airline on the same route. This would severely limit the use of the licensing system to secure improvements in air services over the main air routes otherwise than at the discretion of the monopoly carrier. It would also inhibit, inter alia, the licensing of experimental services such as Skytrain, and remove the possibility of the Authority using its licensing powers to deal effectively with circumstances at present unforeseen unless and until further amendments were made in the Guidance.

"I have therefore to inform you that the Civil Aviation Authority disagrees with these provisions.

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Gregor MacKenzie
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Lord Melchett
Neil Carmichael

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

"I have no objection to your laying this letter before Parliament if you feel this is a convenient method of reporting the outcome of your consultation with the Authority."'

Concorde noise levels

Figures were requested by Mr. Barney Hayhoe (Hounslow, Brentford and Isleworth) showing the monitored noise measurements for Concorde on its recent flights from Heathrow Airport and giving comparisons for noise level and duration with other aircraft using the airport.

Mr. Clinton Davis gave the following tables showing the maximum noise levels recorded by Concorde at the permanent monitoring points during its first nine commercial flights at Heathrow, together with the duration of the noise recorded above 90 PNdB, and with the noise levels of the six immediately preceding and succeeding aircraft:

Aircraft	Max noise level (PNdB)	Duration of noise above 90 PNdB (seconds)
21 January		
DC9	98	24
Trident	105	37
Trident	109	44
Trident	102	38
Boeing 747	107	6
Caravelle	103	37
CONCORDE	112	42
Boeing 707	98	34
Boeing 707	100	41
Boeing 747	96	19
Boeing 747	100	18
Boeing 747	97	20
Trident	113	42
26 January		
Trident	112	32
DC8	99	28
Boeing 737	96	32
TU 134	102	27
Boeing 707	102	35
Boeing 747	95	14
CONCORDE	114	42
Boeing 727	103	15
HS 125	97	20
Trident	110	54
Boeing 707	105	42
Boeing 727	105	40
Boeing 707	105	46
28 January		
Lockheed 1011	Below 90 PNdB	
DC9	100	29
DC9	101	27
Boeing 727	102	24
Trident	110	43
Trident	112	35
CONCORDE	112	43
Trident	107	43
Trident	110	46
Trident	99	29
Boeing 737	97	32
Trident	105	30
Boeing 747	102	21
2 February		
DC9	99	21
Trident	108	36
Boeing 737	92	14
BAC 1-11	103	46
Trident	106	33
BAC 1-11	103	39
CONCORDE	112	25
HS 125	95	17
Boeing 737	Below 90 PNdB	
Boeing 747	95	9
Boeing 747	99	17
Trident	105	39
Trident	106	30
4 February		
Boeing 727	96	18
Trident	107	46
DC9	97	23
Trident	106	43
BAC 1-11	101	49
HS 125	98	19
CONCORDE	111	27
Trident	101	29
Boeing 747	106	20
Trident	106	41
Trident	106	35
Trident	98	31
Trident	104	35
9 February		
Trident	110	35
Boeing 707	106	31
Boeing 707	116	46
Boeing 707	102	44
Super VC 10	107	50
Boeing 747	108	34
CONCORDE	109	49
BAC 1-11	106	65
Trident	108	38
Boeing 737	101	31
Boeing 727	107	28
Trident	108	52
A 300B	Below 90 PNdB	
11 February		
Boeing 747	102	41
BAC 1-11	107	62
Boeing 747	96	13
Trident	111	50
Boeing 737	97	22
Trident	108	35
CONCORDE	112	46
Trident	111	45
VC 10	110	66
DC9	Below 90 PNdB	
Trident	108	47
BAC 1-11	106	66
Boeing 747	99	25
16 February (morning take-off)		
Trident	107	48
BAC 1-11	107	49
Trident	106	44
DC9	103	29
Trident	107	37
B707	99	34
CONCORDE	110	41
Trident	110	38
Super VC 10	111	53
Boeing 707	100	28
Boeing 727	102	31
Trident	110	47
Trident	106	38
16 February (afternoon take-off)		
Trident	105	37
Boeing 707	106	20
Boeing 737	96	17
Trident	108	45
Trident	105	26
Trident	108	41
CONCORDE	112	40
Trident	102	40
Trident	108	38
DC9	96	12
Trident	107	39
Fokker 28	98	23
Super VC 10	106	34

'I should emphasise that we shall need the results of many more movements than the first nine commercial flights before valid conclusions can be drawn,' said Mr. Clinton Davis.

Auxiliary coastguards

Dr. John Cunningham (Whitehaven) asked for a list of those stations in Cumbria from which auxiliary coastguards operate, giving the number of watches kept at each by auxiliaries in the last six months, and how this compares with the corresponding period in 1974-75.

Mr. Clinton Davis gave the table below showing the number of watches kept from August 1975 to January 1976 inclusive, together with the corresponding period for 1974/75:

Maryport		Workington		Whitehaven		Bootle		Walney Is.	
74/75	75/76	74/75	75/76	74/75	75/76	74/75	75/76	74/75	75/76
231	119	480	214	396	195	191	113	351	277

Knitwear and Price Check Scheme

Mr. George Reid (Clackmannan and East Stirlingshire) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what representations she has received from the knitwear industry regarding its inclusion in the Price Check Scheme.

Mrs. Williams' answer was published in *Trade and Industry* of 27 February, page 562.

Advertising the Price Check Scheme

'*What is the cost to date of newspaper advertising of the Price Check Scheme?*' *asked Mr. Michael Brotherton (Louth).*

Mr. Maclennan told him that the approximate cost of advertising in newspapers up to 26 February was £103,000.

Polyurethane foam

Mr. Ronald Brown (Hackney South and Shoreditch) spoke of the increasing number of household fires resulting in the suffocation of occupants through the burning of polyurethane foam and asked if advice would be issued similar to Technical Data Note No. 29 (Rev.) to all households on how to protect themselves from the unusually high burning rate and volume of heated smoke that occurs when polyurethane foam is ignited.

Mr. Williams answered: 'Technical Data Note 29 relates to precautions, particularly in relation to storage, to be taken in factories in which foamed plastics are manufactured, stored or worked in bulk. Advice of this kind for the comparatively small amounts of polyurethane foam likely to be present in the home would not serve any useful purpose. The Government and other bodies already promote a great deal of publicity on fire precautions in the home.'

Anglo-Soviet trade

Sir Frederic Bennett (Torbay) asked the result of the Helsinki Agreement on Anglo-Soviet trade.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'The Co-operation Agreement of 6 May 1974 and the long-term programme signed by my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister in Moscow last February provide a framework for economic and industrial co-operation with the Soviet Union. Our exports to the Soviet Union rose from £110 million in 1974 to £211 million in 1975, and there are good prospects for the longer term expansion of our trade. Full implementation of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe would help create a more favourable general climate for Anglo-Soviet trade and better conditions for our businessmen seeking to trade in the Soviet Union.'

Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd.

Mr. Peter Rost (South East Derbyshire) asked when the 100 per cent shareholding of Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. would be transferred to the National Enterprise Board; and the terms of reference or guidelines on which the company will be managed.

'I hope that the transfer will be made very shortly,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'The intention is that the relationships between the NEB and the company should be in accordance with a "memorandum of understanding" between the two parties which my Rt. Hon. Friend plans to make available to the House.'

Parliament continued

Paper imports

Mr. Roger Moate (Faversham) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations he has received about dumping of paper products in the UK from non-traditional suppliers.

'The British Paper and Board Industry Federation have put in an application for anti-dumping action against imports of paper from Eastern Europe, Spain, Brazil and Switzerland,' said Mr. Deakins. 'This is being considered.'

Mr. Moate asked if HM Government and local authorities should follow a Buy British policy for purchases of paper, wherever practicable.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'The primary objective of government purchasing is to obtain what is needed and get value for money while at the same time having regard to industrial objectives. Within these guidelines I would expect all purchasers, whether in central or local government, to give full consideration to the products of the British paper industry.'

Mr. Moate also asked if discussions would take place with other member States of the EEC on a speeding up of the timetable for the abolition of the Common Customs Tariff on paper imports from non-candidate EFTA countries in order to promote conditions of fairer competition for the UK paper industry.

'Neither the EFTA countries nor the other Member States of the EEC have so far expressed any interest in speeding up the timetable for dismantling the Common Customs Tariff on imports of paper products from EFTA countries,' said Mr. Deakins. 'If they were to do so we should be pleased to discuss the matter.'

Mr. Moate asked when the Secretary of State for Trade expects to conduct and complete the overall review into the quota arrangements for the import of paper and board products.

Mr. Deakins said that Mr. Shore intended that the review should be completed before the summer. 'I cannot be more specific because arrangements depend also upon the main EFTA supplying countries who are the other parties to the review,' he added.

Pricing – nationalised industries

Mr. Toby Jessel (Twickenham) asked what guidelines on pricing have been given to nationalised industries within the control of the Secretary of State for Industry.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'The chairman of the Post Office has been told that the Government's policy is to phase out subsidies to the Post Office in respect of price restraint by the end of this financial year. Most of the products of the British Steel Corporation are subject to the provisions of the Treaty of Paris.'

Mr. Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked how many Department of Industry staff are directly concerned with the Post Office Giro's current and proposed banking activities.

'At policy level in the Posts and Telecommunications Division of my department three staff up to Assistant Secretary are responsible for the sponsorship of Giro among their other duties,' said Mr. MacKenzie.

Textile imports

Mr. Mike Noble (Rossendale) asked to what extent imports of individual categories of textile goods are to be limited as a result of the controls recently imposed by the EEC on merchandise from Taiwan.

'Notice to Importers, No. 1534, published in *Trade and Industry* on 16 January, set out the quota arrangements for textile imports from Taiwan,' said Mr. Deakins. 'As stated in the Notice, it was necessary to combine the 1975 and 1976 quotas for some categories, because of overshipment in 1975. The approximate balance remaining for these quotas for 1976 is as follows':

Category 1	NIL
Category 4 (a)	394 tonnes
Category 4 (b)	186 tonnes
Category 6 (a)	NIL
Category 7 (a)	8,144 thousand articles
Category 7 (b)	NIL
Category 8 (a)	NIL
Category 8 (b)	NIL
Category 8 (c)	NIL
Category 8 (d)	NIL
Category 8 (e)	81 tonnes
Category 9 (b)	106 tonnes

Mr. Noble also inquired the rate of growth of textile imports, by category, from India, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea, for each member state of the EEC in 1975, 1976 and 1977, as a result of the recently concluded agreements on trade in textiles between the EEC and these respective governments.

Mr. Deakins gave the information below, based on data compiled by the EEC Commission. In all cases the percentages represent year-on-year rates of growth in the permitted quota levels. As regards India and Pakistan, no percentage growth rates can be shown for 1975 (except where the UK had a comparable

		Germany	France	Italy	Benelux	UK	Ireland	Denmark	EEC
INDIA									
1 Woven cotton cloth (other than gauze, Terry towelling and similar Terry fabrics, narrow fabrics, pile and chenille fabrics tulle and other net fabrics)	1975	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	1976	20.1	16.8	30.0	20.0	0.5	19.9	12.1	7.0
	1977	16.3	16.5	30.0	16.3	0.5	19.6	10.5	7.0
2 Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): women's shirts and blouses of cotton	1975	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	32.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	1976	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1977	7.2	11.3	6.9	1.4	14.8	Nil	Nil	6.3
3 Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, of cotton	1975	Not available							
	1976	11.6	50.0	30.0	7.9	Nil	44.4	0.5	5.6
	1977	9.1	49.8	30.1	27.0	0.5	61.5	0.5	6.6
PAKISTAN									
1 Woven cotton cloth (other than gauze, Terry towelling and similar Terry fabrics, narrow fabrics, pile and chenille fabrics, tulle and other net fabrics)	1975	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
	1976	22.9	22.9	18.5	18.8	0.5	0.4	3.3	7.0
	1977	20.2	20.2	17.1	16.8	0.5	0.4	2.5	7.0
2 Bed linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, of cotton	1975	Not available							
	1796	16.8	20.4	6.6	1.5	4.4	16.7	0.6	7.0
	1977	16.2	15.9	6.2	1.9	4.9	14.3	0.6	7.0
REPUBLIC OF KOREA									
1 Woven cotton cloth (other than gauze, Terry towelling and similar Terry fabrics, narrow fabrics, pile and chenille fabrics, tulle and other net fabrics) and woven synthetic man-made fibre cloth	1975	Not available							
	1976	Not available							
	1977	12.0	15.2	1.7	0.5	10.7	15.6	0.6	7.0
2 Synthetic man-made fibre yarn (discontinuous or waste), not put up for retail sale: containing 85% or more by weight of synthetic textile fibres	1975	Not available							
	1976	Not available							
	1977	2.1	18.9	19.4	15.7	6.4	5.5	0.5	6.0
3 Undergarments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised: shirts, T-shirts, undervests, singlets and the like	1975	Not available							
	1976	Not available							
	1977	7.0	2.8	26.1	2.9	16.8	0.5	21.4	8.0
4 Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised: jerseys, pull-overs, slip-overs, twin-sets, cardigans, bed-jackets and jumpers	1975	Not available							
	1976	Not available							
	1977	7.7	16.0	31.3	0.5	0.5	2.0	9.3	3.0
5 Men's, boys', women's, girls' and infants, outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): raincoats of the overcoat type	1975	Not available							
	1976	Not available							
	1977	1.0	43.0	6.7	1.6	6.8	2.0	18.2	4.0
6 Men's, boys', women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): trousers, jeans, breeches and the like, except divided skirts	1975	Not available							
	1976	Not available							
	1977	3.9	20.4	20.9	0.6	7.0	11.8	2.1	6.0
7 Men's and boys' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): suits, jackets, blazers	1975	Not available							
	1976	Not available							
	1977	0.6	50.0	50.0	6.3	29.9	40.0	0.7	9.0
8 Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): skirts and blouses	1975	Not available							
	1976	Not available							
	1977	7.5	39.5	38.2	0.5	3.6	20.0	2.1	6.0
9 Men's and boys' undergarments (other than knitted or crocheted) including collars, shirt fronts and cuffs: shirts	1975	Not available							
	1976	Not available							
	1977	0.5	30.1	29.3	0.5	8.7	8.3	9.0	2.5

quota in 1974) because of insufficient data. As regards the Republic of Korea, no percentages are shown for 1975 and 1976 because insufficient data are available to calculate imports net of re-exports by quota categories in 1975. No allowance has been made for flexibility in the use of quotas.

Mr. Noble then asked what proportion of each category of textile imports into the EEC from the Republic of Korea, India and Pakistan, respectively, would be taken by the UK in 1976 and 1977; and for the proportions in 1974.

Mr. Deakins gave the following table showing the UK share as a percentage of Community imports by quota group in 1974, and as a percentage of Community quotas in 1976 and 1977. (The tables are based on data compiled by the EEC Commission. No allowance has been made for the flexible use of quotas.)

PAKISTAN

	1974	1976	1977
1 Woven cotton cloth (other than gauze, Terry towelling and similar Terry fabrics, narrow fabrics, pile and chenille fabrics, tulle and other net fabrics)	n.a.	56.9	53.5
2 Bed linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, of cotton	n.a.	25.3	24.8

INDIA

	1974	1976	1977
1 Woven cotton cloth (other than gauze, Terry towelling and similar Terry fabrics, narrow fabrics, pile and chenille fabrics, tulle and other net fabrics	n.a.	61.4	57.6
2 Women's girls' and infants outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Women's shirts and blouses of cotton.	n.a.	12.8	13.8
3 Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, of cotton	n.a.	50.0	47.1

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

	1974	1976	1977
1. Woven cotton cloth (other than gauze, Terry towelling and similar Terry fabrics, narrow fabrics, pile and chenille fabrics, tulle and other net fabrics) and woven synthetic man-made fibre cloth	17.0	19.1	19.7
2. Synthetic man-made fibre yarn (discontinuous or waste), not put up for retail sale: containing 85% or more by weight of synthetic textile fibres	24.7	23.4	23.5
3. Undergarments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised: shirts, T-shirts, undervests, singlets and the like	17.9	18.4	19.9
4. Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted not elastic or rubberised: jerseys, pull-overs, slip-overs, twinsets, cardigans, bed-jackets and jumpers	48.3	45.1	44.0
5. Men's boys' women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): raincoats of the overcoat type	20.7	20.5	21.0
6. Men's boys', women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): trousers, jeans, breeches and the like, except divided skirts	7.5	24.7	24.9
7. Men's and boys' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): suits, jackets, blazers	19.4	16.6	19.8
8. Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): shirts and blouses	26.6	30.6	29.9
9. Men's and boys' undergarments (other than knitted or crocheted) including collars, shirt fronts and cuffs: shirts	7.7	9.9	10.5

Tuesday, 24 February

British tankers for USSR

Mr. Churchill (Stretford) asked how many vessels, including tankers, have been constructed in British shipyards since 1960 for eventual service in the Soviet navy; and how many contracts for the construction of such vessels are outstanding today.

Mr. Kaufman, said that six merchant vessels built since 1960 by British shipyards have entered Soviet use. It is not known whether any of these were entered for service in the Soviet Navy. It is not possible to identify any of the present orders outstanding as being for ultimate Soviet use.

Companies Acts

Mr. John Wakeham (Maldon) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would introduce legislation to amend the Companies Acts to bring them into line with Section 9 of the European Communities Act 1972.

'No', said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'Such action is not necessary so far as company law is concerned, although we shall of course at an appropriate stage consolidate companies legislation.'

UK and Saudi Arabia

Mr. Tam Dalyell (West Lothian) asked for a statement on the work of the Joint Commission between Great Britain and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'The first meeting of the Joint Commission is likely to take place in London towards the end of next month. Preparations for this meeting are being made by my department with the help of the UK director general of the special Economic Co-operation Office in Riyadh who was appointed in December under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two governments last October.'

Japanese cars

Mr. Ray Carter (Birmingham Northfield) asked for a statement on the progress of the voluntary agreement reached with the Japanese authorities on the voluntary reduction of car exports to the United Kingdom.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'Our concern about the level of car imports has been made clear, both during my Rt. Hon. Friend's discussions with Japanese Ministers last September and on subsequent occasions. There was a significant decline in registrations of Japanese cars in the concluding months of last year. The Japanese industry has predicted that average monthly registrations of Japanese cars during the first quarter of this year will not exceed the average of the last five months of 1975.'

Footwear from Eastern Europe

Mr. Noble asked what steps are being taken by the Department of Trade to monitor imports of footwear from Eastern Europe.

'Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania agreed to limit in 1975 their exports of men's leather footwear, excluding sandals, to the UK and importers were required to make monthly returns of actual and proposed imports', said Mr. Deakins. 'Discussions to continue these arrangements into 1976 and to extend the coverage to include similar footwear for women and children are in hand but have yet to be completed. Footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or artificial plastic material is subject to quota when imported from Eastern Europe.'

Insurance companies

Mr. Ray Carter (Birmingham, Northfield) asked how many insurance companies have gone into liquidation or ceased trading since February 1974.

Mr. Clinton Davis listed the following seven insurance companies which have gone into liquidation since 1 February 1974:

1974
Bastion Insurance Co. Ltd.
Cheltenham Mutual Plate Glass Insurance Society Ltd.
Mid-Southern Hospital Contributory Association Private Patients Ltd.
Nation Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
1975
Lincolnshire Steam Trawlers' Mutual Insurance Protection Co. Ltd.
Scarborough and District Plate Glass Mutual Insurance Co. Ltd.
Stevedores Insurance Society Ltd.

In the case of the following two additional companies petitions for winding up have been presented and provisional liquidators appointed since 1 February 1974:

Government Publications in London

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn WC1V 6HB

1974
London Indemnity and General Insurance Co. Ltd.
1975
Fidelity Life Assurance Ltd.

The following five additional companies have ceased to take on new business since 1 February 1974 as a result of a requirement made by the Secretary of State for Trade under S.29 of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 (or the corresponding provision of the Insurance Companies Amendment Act 1973):

1974
IGAL Ltd. (formerly Castle Life).
Underwriters National Assurance Co. (USA).
1975
Argonaut Insurance Co. (USA).
London Equity Assurance Ltd.
1976
Indemnity Guarantee Assurance Ltd.

A number of other companies are known to be no longer taking on new business.

Job creation

Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dundee East) asked how many new jobs have been created by incoming firms per annum between the years 1958 and 1975 in: (a) West Central Scotland, (b) Tayside and (c) South-East England.

Mr. MacKenzie explained that the information available relates to jobs remaining in existence in (generally) 1972. There were some changes in the definition of the West Central Scotland and Tayside areas effective from 1966. Further changes affected all three areas in 1972. He gave the following details:

EMPLOYMENT AT NEW MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS OPENED 1960-72
(000s to nearest 500)

Year of opening	West Central Scotland	Tayside	South East England
1960	6.5		1.5
1961	5.0	0.0	1.5
1962	4.0		2.0
1963	2.0	0.5	2.0
1964	6.0		0.5
1965	3.5	0.0	2.0
1966	0.5		1.5
1967	0.5	1.0	1.5
1968	1.5	0.0	1.0
1969	1.0	0.0	2.0
1970	1.0	0.5	1.5
1971	0.5	0.0	0.5
1972	1.0	0.5	0.5

Figures for West Central Scotland and Tayside relate to new establishments with attributed origins outside Scotland; the figures for South East England relate to new establishments with attributed origins outside the region. Employment data relate to 1972 except for 1960 and 1961 openings for which the data relate to 1970 and 1971, respectively.

Waste paper

Mr. Moate asked what has so far been achieved by the Advisory Group on Waste Paper Recycling and what encouragement has been given to local authorities to maintain collections of waste paper.

Mr. Carmichael replied: 'A Report by the Advisory Group on Waste Paper Recycling has been endorsed by the Waste Management Advisory Council. The Group's recommendations on Government purchasing policy for paper and board and on research are already being implemented. Their other recommendations are being considered as part of the Government's plans to assist the increased use of waste paper on which my Hon. Friend the Minister of State recently indicated the Government's intentions. It is hoped to make a further announcement next month. Local authorities have been asked on several occasions to take a long-term view on their collection of waste paper, despite present difficulties.'

DPCP publicity costs

Mrs. Winifred Ewing asked for the total cost of publicity incurred by the DPCP in the years 1973, 1974 and 1975; and for the estimate for 1976, broken down into relevant headings.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'My department was established in 1974. Publicity expenditures are as follows:'

1974-75	Exhibitions	£3,200
	Films/television	£3,100
	Radio	£2,100
	Publications	£10,200
1975-76	(Projected): Films/TV	£10,500
	Photographs	£100
	Publications	£6,500
	Radio	£800

Price Check publicity for 1975/76: The cost of advertising to the general public and to the trade and of printing and distributing the promotion kits for retailers is a charge on funds made available for the Counter Inflation Publicity campaign. Estimates of the costs of Price Check publicity were given in reply to the Hon. Member for Cirencester and Tewkesbury on 16 February.

1976-77 The provision for publicity is £103,700

Wednesday 25 February,

Hides and skins from India

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked what steps are being taken to ensure the continuity of supply of semi-finished hides and skins from India to manufacturers in the UK in view of the imminent increase in Indian export duty and/or the present quota arrangements.

Mr. Deakins said that during Mr. Shore's visit to India last month he explained to the Indian Minister of Commerce his concern that there should continue to be reasonable supplies to British manufacturers of semi-finished hides and skins. Mr. Deakins went on: 'We are not aware that any decision affecting these supplies has been taken by the Government of India since that visit.'

British investments in South Africa

Mr. Eldon Griffiths (Bury St. Edmunds) asked for an estimate of the value of British investments in South Africa and the main sectors in which this investment is at present located.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'The total book value of British investments in South Africa, as estimated by the Reserve Bank of South Africa, amounted to some £1,750 million at the end of 1971. The available information by industry is from the official estimates of the book value of direct investment in South Africa and South West Africa, exluding oil, banking and insurance. The latest figures relate to the end of 1971 and were published in Table 37 of Business Monitor M 4 Part II, Overseas Transactions 1972, a copy of which is in the Library. Figures for subsequent net flows of direct investment in 1972 and 1973 were published respectively in Table 19 of Business Monotor M 4 Part I, Overseas Transactions 1972 and Table 19 of Business Monitor M 4, Overseas Transactions 1973, copies of which are also in the Library.'

Policyholders Protection Board

Mr. Roger Moate asked what actions have been taken by the Policyholders Protection Board with regard to the Fidelity Life Assurance Co. Ltd.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'The Policyholders Protection Board has provided an indemnity under Section 15 of the Policyholders Protection Act 1975 to enable the Provisional Liquidator of Fidelity Life Assurance Ltd. to make interim payments to certain policyholders, and I understand that the Special Manager has already written to these policyholders to explain the arrangements. The board has not yet decided whether to exercise its powers to protect policyholders under Section 16 of the Act. The hearing of the petition, presented in the High Court on 28 July 1975, to wind up Fidelity Life has been further adjourned until 8 March 1976.'

Mr. Moate also asked if the Secretary of State for Trade expects to impose a levy on insurance companies as a result of the present activities of the Policyholders Protection Board.

'My Rt. Hon. Friend has no powers to impose a levy on insurance companies under the Policyholders Protection Act 1975,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'This is a matter for the Policyholders Protection Board who, in any case, are not empowered to impose such a levy before 1 April 1976.'

Motor cars

Mr. Neil Marten (Banbury) asked what was the value and volume of UK imports of cars from the EEC and UK car exports to the EEC for each year since 1971.

Mr. Shore gave the following figures:

	Imports		Exports	
	£m cif	Thousands	£m cif	Thousands
1971	138.6	236	79.8	217
1972	237.9	332	81.0	208
1973	307.5	346	110.1	232
1974	244.9	248	85.0	159
1975	337.4	278	104.9	121

'These figures exclude parts supplied for use in manufacture abroad; however, such parts for passenger cars are not separately distinguished from parts for commercial vehicles,' said Mr. Shore.

Firework casualties

Mr. Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked for the firework casualty figures for November 1975.

Mr. Williams answered that statistics based on information provided by hospitals in England and Wales relating to persons who received treatment for injuries caused by fireworks during the period 12 October to 8 November 1975 have just become available. They show a reduction in injuries by nearly 18 per cent from the previous year to the lowest level since records were first kept in 1962; serious injuries were down by 29 per cent. Mr. Williams gave figures as follows with the figures for comparable periods in the four preceding years.

FIREWORK INJURIES IN ENGLAND AND WALES (four-week period in October/November)

	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971
Total	728	883	1,186	1,260	1,069
PLACE OF ACCIDENT					
1 Family or private party	215	267	385	441	382
2 Public or semi-public party	144	137	153	166	139
3 Casual incident in street, etc.	203	272	422	422	349
4 Other place	65	89	119	95	88
5 Do not know	101	118	107	136	101
TYPE OF FIREWORK					
1 Banger	196	228	356	369	316
2 Rocket	83	70	118	129	126
3 Jumping cracker	26	42	58	51	47
4 Other flyabout (flying saucer, helicopter, whirlibird, etc.)	25	52	Included in (7)		
5 Display firework (eg Roman candle or coloured fires, etc.)	117	151	280	262	223
6 Home made or extracted powder	24	29	38	54	57
7 Other	56	60	79	83	82
8 Do not know	201	251	257	312	208
SEVERITY OF INJURY					
1 Died	0	0	0	0	1
2 Detained more than one night	43	70	80	91	69
3 Sufficient to cause absence from work or equivalent	93	121	178	143	88
4 Minor injury	572	654	892	1,009	879
5 Do not know	20	38	36	17	22
AGE GROUP OF INJURED PERSONS					
Over 21	114	131	195	167	145
16-20	50	58	74	68	56
13-15	152	184	248	257	210
Under 13	412	510	669	768	648
SEX OF CASUALTIES					
Male	572	713	966	1,022	851
Female	156	170	219	235	203
Not recorded	—	—	1	3	5
Eye injuries	313	372	448	449	386

Thursday, 26 February

Exports to South Africa

Mr. Eldon Griffiths asked what was the total of British exports to South Africa during each of the years 1960 to 1975; and what was the total of imports from South Africa in each of these years.

Mr. Deakins said: 'For 1960, imports were £139.1 million cif and exports £163.2 million fob. Information for 1961 to 1965 and for 1966 to 1974 is published in the Annual Abstracts of Statistics for 1970 (Tables 269 and 270) and 1975 (Tables 305 and 306) respectively; and for 1975 in the December 1975 issue of the Overseas Trade Statistics (Tables II and V).'

National Consumer Council

Mr. John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East) asked for a list of the issues referred to the National Consumer Council since its establishment, together with the approximate dates on which the council's reports are expected to be published.

Mr. Williams answered: 'Two issues have been referred to the National Consumer Council: consumer representation in the nationalised industries, and the effect of energy prices on the budgets of low income households. Both reports are expected to be published during the summer of this year.'

Food subsidies

Mr. Andrew Bennett (Stockport North) asked what is the average weekly saving for a low income family provided by the current level of food subsidies.

Mr. Maclennan said that on the basis of the National Food Survey the current estimated average benefit of food subsidies to households in which the head has a gross income of less than £28 per week, excluding pensioner households, is:

	Average household size	Pence per week
Household with earners	2.64	47
Households without earners	1.71	35

'These benefits represent a saving of about 4½ pence in the £ on household food purchases,' said Mr. Maclennan.

Mr. Bennett also asked what would be the likely impact of the phasing out of food subsidies on the weekly budgets of (a) low income families and (b) pensioners in 1976 and in 1977.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'The effect of the phasing out of food subsidy expenditure will depend upon the extent and timing of reductions in the subsidy rates for the various foods, decisions on which have yet to be taken.'

Friday, 27 February

National Enterprise Board

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) asked the Secretary of State for Industry when he proposes to authorise the transfer of his department's shareholdings to the National Enterprise Board.

Mr. Varley said: 'I have consented to the transfer to the National Enterprise Board of the government shareholdings in British Leyland Ltd., Rolls Royce (1971) Ltd., Brown Boveri Kent Ltd., Cambridge Instruments Ltd., Dunford and Elliott Ltd., Ferranti Ltd, and Herbert Ltd., and I have laid statements to that effect before each House of Parliament today in accordance with Section 5 of the Industry Act 1975.'

Trade with Iraq

Mr. John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East) asked what is being done to stimulate UK trade with Iraq.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'Iraq is our third largest market among the Arab countries. Our exports to Iraq in 1975 were worth £136 million – more than double the 1974 level. I and my department are doing all we can to encourage British firms to take advantage of the major opportunities in this important and growing market. The full range of export assistance is available to support the efforts and initiative of British firms.

'The British Overseas Trade Board has agreed to organise a British pavilion at the Baghdad International Trade Fair in October The Board is also supporting six outward missions to Iraq this year. Talks aimed at strengthening our economic co-operation with Iraq are already taking place between Her Majesty's Government and the Iraqi Government.'

Mr. Cartwright also inquired about Government support for UK firms invited to tender for large-scale industrial contracts in Iraq.

'The full range of services provided by my Department, the British Overseas Trade Board and the Export Credits Guarantee Department are available to such firms', said Mr. Deakins. 'The department is always willing to discuss with UK firms any cases where particular difficulties have arisen or are expected.'

Stationery and the Price Check Scheme

Mr. Cranley Onslow (Woking) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: 'What steps she took, before the introduction of the Price Check Scheme, to advise the retail stationery trade what goods should be included in the description "most other stationery items"; and if she will now list either the items concerned, or those stationery items to which the scheme does not apply?'

Mr. Maclennan said: 'Stationery retailers, like other retailers, were represented in the negotiation of the Price Check Scheme through the Retail Consortium. The list of goods covered by the Scheme was agreed by the Retail Consortium before the Scheme was introduced. Trade Associations in the retail trade, including the British Stationery and Office Products Federation, have been circulating to their members complete lists of the items covered by the Scheme. An extract from this list, giving the stationery items, is set out below.

Stationery items for retail sale:
- personal stationery paper
- household books ie
  - memo pads
  - telephone message pads
  - address books and similar items

Albums
Fountain pen ink
Fountain pens
Felt and fibre tip pens
(excluding markers 3mm and over intended for commercial use)
Propelling pencils
Ball point pens
Pencils, crayons, chalk
Greeting cards and pictorial post cards

'Retailers who have not received detailed information about the Scheme from their trade association should contact their trade association. If they have a query which the trade association cannot answer, they should telephone the retail enquiry unit in my Department, at 01-222 0181. Questions about individual items should be addressed to the suppliers of those items.'

BOTB British Overseas Trade Board

Freeport: the Bahamas' industrial base

An article on the opportunities for British industry to develop manufacturing and distribution facilities in Freeport, Bahamas, by the British High Commission in Nassau

Shakespeare wrote of England as 'this precious jewel set in a silver sea, this demi-paradise'. This description could be as well applied to each one of the Bahama Islands which extend 700 miles through some of the most beautiful crystal clear waters in the world and cover an area of 1,100 sq. miles.

The islands' strategic geographical location, straddling the south-eastern approaches to North America and the gateway to the Caribbean, is their greatest national resource. They are astride one of the world's busiest shipping and air crossroads.

Their location adjacent to the United States, combined with the natural beauty of their beaches and clear waters and exceptional climate, has created the islands' largest source of revenue, the tourist industry, which attracts each year 1,500,000 tourists – eight visitors for each head of population.

The Bahamas, for two years now an independent country within the Commonwealth, has one of the oldest parliaments in the world with a continued democratic tradition consistently maintained through two centuries. Both political parties have a philosophy and stated position in favour of private enterprise. There is complete freedom of the press and expression of opinion in public discussion, and objective foreign observers consider that it is one of the most stable of the developing countries or for that matter of any country in the world.

However, being small and close to the United States, with which its economy is so very closely linked, the Bahamas has always been subject to outside pressures and the consequences of economic and political events beyond its control. The tourist industry, which is responsible for nearly 75 per cent of the gross national product, is especially vulnerable to the tides of world economic surge and recession. As far back as 1955 when the tourist industry was in its infancy, the Bahamas Government saw the dangers of a 'one crop' economy and the need for diversification into industry and commerce.

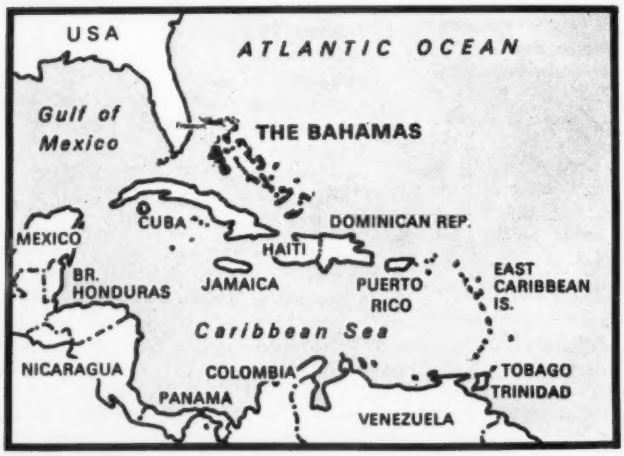
The first major step towards the achievement of this diversification was taken in 1955 when The Grand Bahama Port Authority Ltd., a private company, entered into an agreement with government pursuant to the Hawksbill Creek Act of 1955 whereby initially 50,000 acres of Crown land was granted to The Grand Bahama Port Authority, together with certain concessions and guarantees as to freedom from taxes and customs duties. In return the Port Authority agreed to construct a deepwater harbour, airport and certain administrative facilities for the development of industry and commerce and for a new community to be called Freeport.

The Hawksbill Creek Act was the foundation stone for the formation and development of an industrial and commercial free zone for industry and commerce. Under this agreement, the Bahamas Government provides government administration while the Port Authority supervises building, planning and development of the area. The Port Authority undertook to attract industry and to provide basic facilities for business as it became established.

As a result of subsequent amendments to the agreement, and also of the Port Authority meeting its various commitments to government, the Port Authority's land area now exceeds 230 sq. miles, in which Freeport exists as a thriving community with every modern amenity supported by a broad economic base of industry, commerce and tourism, most of which has been achieved and created within the last 10 years.

Freeport has grown in this time from a primitive construction camp with fewer than 600 inhabitants to become the main economic support for a total population on Grand Bahama Island approaching 35,000 people. The foreign investment in Freeport now exceeds £400 million and it is this which has created the exceptional facilities and infrastructure for industrial and commercial development, which, together with Freeport's strategic location, provide such an ideal base for companies to set up manufacturing, assembly and packaging plants for the service of their existing and potential western hemisphere markets.

The Bahamas — straddling the south-eastern approaches to North America and the gateway to the Caribbean.



One of the unique features of Freeport is that the Port Authority, subject to government approval, has the authority to grant licences to all businesses operating in the Freeport area. Such licences are the means by which the benefits of the agreement as outlined below are passed on to licencees and their employees. The issuance of licences further illustrates the rate of Freeport's growth. In 1962 there were only 60 licencees; today there are more than 1,200.

Incentives for industries

A major incentive for the attraction of industry and commerce was the creation of Freeport as an industrial zone in which goods and raw materials could be imported free of duty for storage, repackaging, conversion or manufacturing and for subsequent export free of excise and other taxes. Freeport was planned to be another Panama and this concept was basic to its original development philosophy.

The other major incentive was the establishment of Freeport as a tax-free area. Freeport is guaranteed, by the agreement, freedom from customs and excise duties until the year 2054 and freedom from income tax, profits tax, capital gain tax, wealth tax and real estate taxes until 1990. However foods for personal use and consumption within the Bahamas pay duty in the normal way.

During the past year a number of new factors have come into being which increase tremendously the advantages and attractions of Freeport as an offshore manufacturing base supplying international markets. These all relate to the duty free entry which has been or is presently being established under a generalised system of preferences (GSPs) by the United States, Japan and the EEC countries for certain goods manufactured or produced in designated beneficiary developing countries of which the Bahamas is one.

Products will normally qualify for these duty preferences if the manufacturing process entails substantial transformation or a change of product classification. The Bahamas still enjoys Commonwealth duty preferences with all members of the Commonwealth other than the United Kingdom which is now part of the EEC.

The incentives together provide a unique situation and opportunity for British manufacturers to establish profitable offshore plants in a location on the threshold of the United States and burgeoning Mexican, Central and South American markets.

Infrastructure and communications

One of the major strengths of Freeport is its possession of a first-class infrastructure. The Port Authority operates through a subsidiary company, a power supply system with a present capacity of 120,000kW, which includes ample reserves for immediate and future needs, and has an enviable record for reliability of service.

Through its utility company, the Port Authority provides and operates an excellent main water supply system drawing on supplies from a plentiful water table which is situated some 10-15 ft below the surface of the island. Engineering consultants estimate that water supplies available in Freeport could meet the demands of a population of 250,000.

There is also a modern deepwater harbour, with a depth of 30 ft at mean low water, with nine wharves. The harbour accommodates regular freight-carrying vessels, roll-on roll-off ships operating to Florida and Nassau and ocean-going container ships. Warehousing, including refrigeration and storage areas, is available to meet any immediate and future needs.

The ro-ro facilities of Freeport Harbour and daily services to Florida enable goods exported from Freeport to be trucked literally to any part of the North American continent.

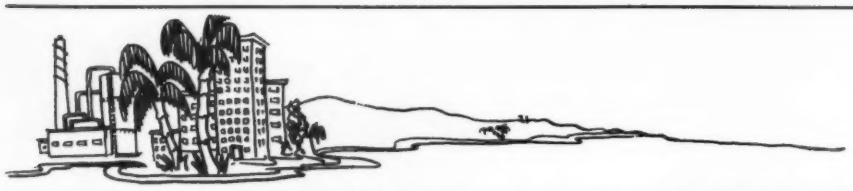
Complementary to this harbour is a modern efficient jet airport which is served internationally by British Airways, Eastern Airlines, Bahamasair, Air Canada, Delta Airlines, Mackey and Shawnee and internally by Bahamasair for both passengers and freight. An average of 270 take-offs and landings are handled daily.

Freeport also enjoys an entirely automatic internal telephone system operated by Continental Telephone Co. and communication with the whole world through Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation which has been improved recently by a submarine cable connecting Grand Bahama with West Palm Beach and Nassau.

Another important service is that provided by banks, of which there are branches in Freeport of Barclays International, the Royal Bank of Canada, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Chase Manhattan, First National City, Bank of Nova Scotia, Bank of Montreal and the Mercantile Bank and Trust Co. Ltd.

Accountants are represented by Price Waterhouse and Co., Coopers and Lybrand, Peat Marwick Mitchell and Co. and Touche Ross and Co.

In addition there is a full range of services – a hospital, clinics, schools, attorneys, libraries, clubs and, of course, the



outstanding social facilities provided by the tourist industry which today has over 4,000 hotel rooms, five 18-hole and one nine-hole championship golf courses, a huge gambling casino, more than 30 restaurants and a superb international shopping centre in which each street represents a specific area of the world.

Fully serviced good building sites and vacant industrial warehouse buildings are available for leasing from Freeport Commercial and Industrial Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Grand Bahama Port Authority Ltd. All are conveniently located within minutes of the harbour, the airport and the city centre.

Freeport's industries

The present main components of the existing heavy and light industrial base are:

Bahamas Oil Refining Co. Ltd. (BORCO)

This is a 500,000 barrel a day throughput refinery producing No. 2 fuel, No. 6 fuel (Bunker C), naphtha, kerosene, jet fuel, propane gas and liquid sulphur. The operation includes a large desulphurisation plant and huge offshore loading and unloading platforms for both VLCCs (supertankers) and smaller tankers. Total investment is in excess of $300 million. The company is owned by New England Petroleum Co. and Standard Oil of California.

Bahama Cement Co. Ltd.

This subsidiary of US Steel Co. is a $75 million investment producing in excess of 6 million barrels of cement annually and has expanded recently. Its main raw material is the local limestone which is mined on the site and products are exported to packing plants sited on the United States' east coast.

Syntex Corporation

This is an $11 million plant producing chemical ingredients for the pharmaceutical industry. It has expanded recently and is now manufacturing a wide range of products including the ingredients for birth control pills, certain steroid drugs and Naproxen, a new anti-arthritic drug. The products of this plant are shipped by air and sea to world markets and benefit materially from the duty concessions on exports to Europe and Japan as described above.

Grand Bahama Steel and Pipe Co. Ltd.

This plant is located in a 35,000 sq. ft building which was recently constructed at Freeport Harbour with the technical assistance of Klockner and Co. of Duisburg, West Germany, at a cost of $3 million. It is designed for the manufacture of large diameter spiral welded steel pipe which is exported to the United States and Caribbean/Central American markets. Although it only came on stream in April 1975, the company is already planning expansion.

Todhunter Mitchell and Co. Ltd.

This distilling and bottling plant has been expanding almost continually since 1965. It now distributes a wide variety of spirits, wines and beer and handles many brand names including Ron Mathusalem and Smirnoff. It enjoys a substantial export business and like the steel pipe plant is also expanding its facilities.

Coopers Laboratories

This subsidiary of a major United States pharmaceutical company operates a plant manufacturing ethical drugs which are exported to Central and South America and Europe. It has been operating successfully in Freeport for the past eight years.

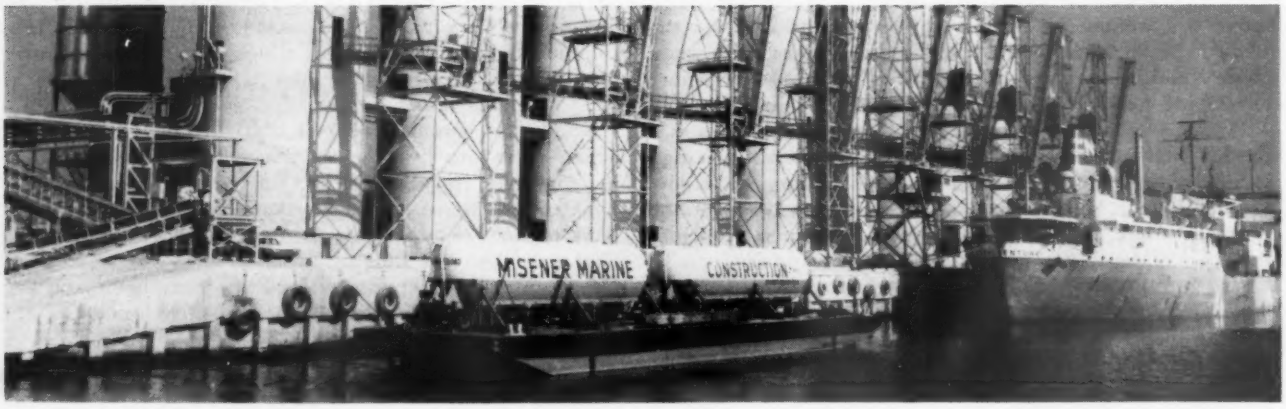
Many other companies have manufacturing and distributing facilities in Freeport and there are in excess of 1,000 commercial office and industrial users of electricity in the area.

Labour

The greatest natural resource of any country is its people. With a population two-thirds of which is under 25 years-of-age, the Bahamas has all the potential required to meet the demands of economic expansion. During the last eight years great efforts and capital expenditure have been put into improving the education system and this is now bearing fruit.

Thus we see few problems for new industry setting up in the Bahamas in finding the staff and labour to operate efficiently, although where skilled staff cannot be found locally the Bahamas Government will normally grant working permits for skilled professional expatriate personnel for periods up to three years, and in special cases to a maximum of five years. When, however, a new industry comes into Freeport it

The $100 million Bahama Cement Co. was the first major manufacturer to set up operations in Freeport. The limestone spoil dug from the harbour provides the basic raw material for the facility. Producing more than 6 million barrels of cement annually, the plant makes both bulk and bagged cement, mainly for the export market.



will be required to submit to the Port Authority for the information of the Bahamas Government a comprehensive manpower brief and training programme, setting out the jobs which will be created, by description and qualification and educational standard required, and specifying those for which immigration permission will probably be required in the light of availability of trained and skilled Bahamians for such jobs.

Existing industries in Freeport have no major problems in recruiting expatriate skilled professional and technical staff which come mainly from the UK. Close liaison is established between the Ministry of Labour and industry to recruit and select suitable Bahamians from high schools and the Nassau Technical College for training and further education. It is reported that the quality of these recruits improves every year which no doubt stems from the improved educational standards and facilities now obtained in the Bahamas.

Labour rates are on the average slightly lower than the United States and range from £1-£2 per hour in the core industries of Freeport. Sophisticated skilled jobs pay as much as £3 an hour. A National Insurance Act has been introduced recently but its provisions for both payments and benefits are substantially lower than those obtaining in the United States and Great Britain.

Financing

Although it is unlikely that local financing would be available using Bahamian dollar funds, industry normally would have no difficulty in raising the necessary investment capital through one of the major international banks which have branches in the Bahamas.

The Bahamas is in fact one of the largest money markets in the world, with more than 350 banks now operating and licensed under the Bank and Trust Companies Regulations Act of the Bahamas which is administered by the recently formed Central Bank of the Bahamas.

Exchange control is administered by the Central Bank and an industry which was being established in the Bahamas would register its investment with the bank, which would give permission for that investment to be repatriated in the funds of the country of origin, together with any surplus realised from the sale of the assets of the business. An industry engaged in substantial import/export business may also be permitted to operate a non-resident account which would permit the unrestricted receipt and disposal of external funds generated by the business.

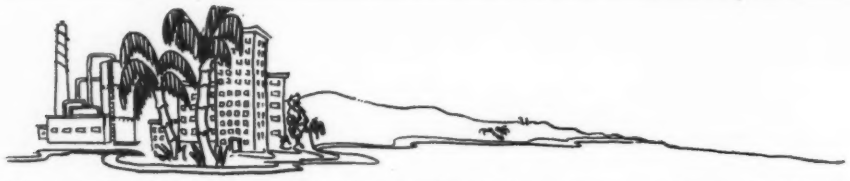
When a British company decided to invest in an industry in the Bahamas it would have to obtain permission from the Bank of England. It is understood that permission to avoid paying the premium may be granted by the Bank of England to an investing company according to whether it was considered that the investment would result in a net gain to the UK balance of payments, and, in particular, as to whether it would generate exports of British-manufactured goods and machinery.

A good example would be a plant which used British machinery and a British steel building. In some instances it might be possible to find a local investor to construct and lease the plant building to the British company with rent payable by locally generated income. In this regard, Freeport Commercial and Industrial Ltd. has warehouse and factory space available for leasing from 1,000 sq. ft to 12,000 sq. ft blocks. Barclays Bank International, which is one of the largest banks in the Bahamas and has a branch in Freeport, has assisted in the financing of major industries in Freeport and would welcome inquiries from British manufacturers.

Any investment by United Kingdom companies would require prior Bank of England permission and would have to be financed by one or more of the following methods:

1 by use of investment currency (on which a premium is payable);
2 by the export, free of payment, of capital equipment and stock-in-trade forming an integral part of the investment;
3 by foreign currency borrowing, repayable as benefits and received in the United Kingdom from the investment;
4 by the issue or transfer of shares to non-residents on appropriate terms;
5 by capitalisation of an overseas subsidiary's current account indebtedness to the United Kingdom parent company;
6 by retention of profits of existing non-resident subsidiaries within certain limits; or
7 by use of funds which, after satisfaction of any profit repatriation obligation, remain surplus to the requirements of an existing non-resident subsidiary and have been loaned by that subsidiary to its UK parent.

This recent photograph of the down-town business section of Freeport shows the rapid growth of this island resort and industrial community. Long-range detailed planning and strict zoning laws are two of the reasons for this dramatic growth rate, but relaxed living on a tropical island with sophisticated conveniences and activities of a modern urban community have certainly contributed greatly.



Opportunities for British industries in Freeport

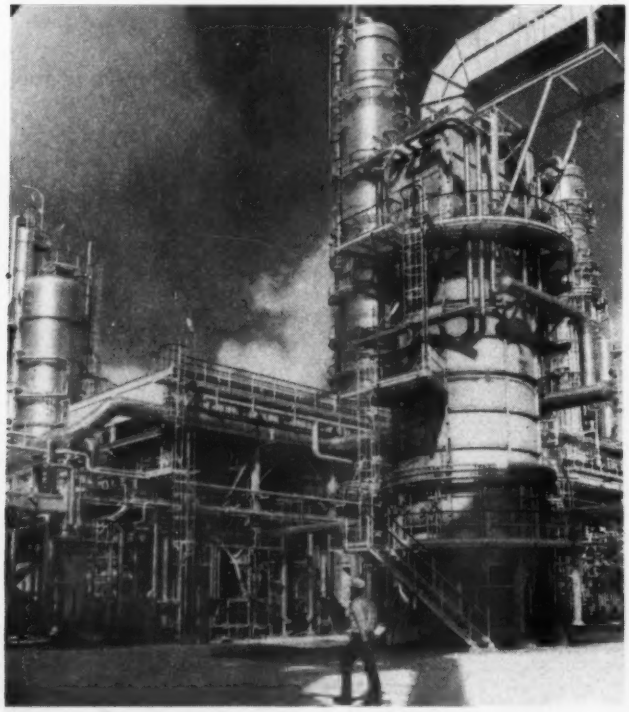
The following is a list which is by no means comprehensive but which provides some examples of the many types of businesses which might be established in Freeport. These could in many cases be joint ventures with Bahamian and United States companies, especially where such companies already possess strong marketing capabilities in the Americas:

Pharmaceuticals, toiletries and specialised chemicals
Biologically derived drugs
Special steels and metal manufacture and fabrication
Small car assembly, eg golf carts, beach buggies, etc
Electronics assembly and manufacture
Equipment for schools, sports, games and leisure activities
Hotel and restaurant supplies and equipment
Industries needing and using products from the oil refinery and cement plant
Plastics – moulds and extrusions
Specialised and patented industrial components and spare parts
Light aircraft and helicopter assembly, sales, service and distribution
Mail order businesses for British goods into North and South America
Warehousing, sales and service for gift goods distributed into south-east USA and the Caribbean
Shipping, operating and registration

Major project opportunities

Ship repair yard and dry dock

Grand Bahama with the BORCO refinery, Burmah Oil and the Bahamas Government oil terminal generates a large volume of shipping and the geographical location is ideal. Construction of these facilities is assisted by the ability to excavate to any depth required with access to deep water, ie 80 ft plus within 1,500 yd of the shore line.



Oil refineries

Grand Bahama Island is an ideal location for oil refineries which can receive their crude oil supplies from VLCCs and ULCCs at deep water offshore platforms. The geographical location is unequalled for supplying the east and Gulf coasts of the United States with products. Grand Bahama is equidistant from Corpus Christi (Texas) and New York.

Petrochemical plants

These would follow directly out of the refineries.

A container port

The geographical location of Grand Bahama is again the major factor. Third generation container ships operating between Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the Far East could deliver their containers to Grand Bahama from where they could be distributed feeder by ship to ports on the east and Gulf coasts of the United States and the Caribbean and could also be connected with air freight services into the middle-west of the United States.

Air freight and air training centres

Freeport has a first class airport which could provide an excellent base for international air cargo operations and an air training centre.

Development of an industrial base

Freeport was conceived to provide and develop for the Bahamas an industrial base which would supplement the dominant tourist industry which was, and still is, the main source of jobs and employment in the country. It has been brilliantly successful in doing so and the City of Freeport as it is today is a testament to the achievement of this aim.

Freeport is a model garden city with a superb infrastructure which is able to provide services and facilities for the wide range of new industries and commercial businesses which are now being sought by The Grand Bahama Port Authority Ltd., the original developers of Freeport and its subsidiary Freeport Commercial and Industrial Ltd. in co-operation with the Bahamas Government.

For more details write to Freeport Commercial and Industrial Ltd., PO Box F-2666, Freeport, Bahamas (tel. 809-352-6711; cable, Portauth; telex, FPO 20).

Bahamas Oil Refinery Plant, on the south shore of Grand Bahama Island, is an example of the industries that are finding this area a good place in which to locate. BORCO, as the refinery is known by Freeport residents, is a joint venture of Standard Oil Co. of California and the New England Petroleum Corporation. Constructed at a cost of over $300 million, the refinery began operation during November 1970 and now has a throughput capacity of 500,000 barrels of crude oil per day. The refinery produces low-sulphur fuel oils, currently in high demand to meet air pollution problems in the eastern seaboard cities of the United States, and petrochemical feedstocks.

BOTB News

'Just the right time for a good look at exports' – Sir Frederick

A major campaign to help Scottish exporters maximise their overseas business took place in Glasgow on 24-25 February. Sponsored by the BOTB, the campaign was led by the Chairman, Sir Frederick Catherwood, and HRH The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman designate. Between them, they visited five top exporting companies to see production techniques and meet management and workforce.

On 25 February an export conference entitled 'Export Dynamics' and chaired by Sir Frederick Catherwood was held in the Central Hotel, Glasgow; detailed case studies of four of the companies visited (Hugh Smith Ltd., Ben Sayers Ltd., Anderson Mavor Ltd. and Barrhead Kid Co. Ltd.) were presented in audio-visual form. The conference was attended by an audience of more than 250, representing exporters, firms and organisations serving the export trade, shop floor representatives, trade union and civic leaders, who had an opportunity to discuss points arising in exporting methods from the particular case studies as well as on general export matters.

In his opening address, Sir Frederick Catherwood said:

'This is just the right time for a good look at exports. There is no doubt from my own visits overseas that British exports are in demand. The lowering of the EEC tariffs and the lower rate for sterling make us more competitive in our major markets than we have ever been. I know of one major European company which is now cutting back its continental production and putting its UK plant up to maximum output because of the advantage in selling from Britain. And export markets are likely to expand sooner and faster than the home market, which cannot get any real bounce back until we begin to balance our external trade and stop depending on borrowed money.

'Latest reports show that developed markets in Europe and North America are expanding again. This is especially true of the United States which I visited a few weeks ago. Britain will follow when we can finance our expansion, which we will not be able to do until we have covered our deficit by much higher exports. Exports are the only way out – and the only way out for everyone, companies, workers and government. We will not be able to keep even the new level of social services without export-led expansion.

'The government expenditure cuts of £2½ billion are negative actions which will not get us far in themselves. Industry badly needs money to invest for jobs, exports and expansion and it is only if cuts are matched by new industrial expenditure that we can get unemployment down and recover our share of trade and regain our prosperity. It is this last case that the board had to make with some vigour. But we will not get this case across unless we can persuade government that, given the tools, we are all ready for export-led growth.

'We may think that if we make a success of it, we don't have the finance at present to follow up – for a breakthrough in export markets can be far more spectacular than expansion at home. But I am fairly confident that, in the present climate, no government would fail to support an industrial sector whose export drive had taken off. The brakes would slam on hard everywhere else and the resources would be found in one way or another.

'I think that the stage is set for this kind of breakthrough. In the last few months I have visited the USA and all partners in the European community, except Luxembourg, and talked to agents, salesmen and customers. British products are competitive on price, but our share of their imports is too small. It could be doubled or even trebled without disturbing the market and, if we put the same resources into our export markets that we have traditionally done into our home markets, I see no reason why we should not make this kind of breakthrough.

'Every economist is his own expert when it comes to forecasting the size of the trade gap this year. I think I'm on safe ground in saying that every £200 million increase in exports will close it by 1 per cent; but it is how many of these percents we need that is not agreed. Current trends suggest we will get 4 per cent extra this year in volume as the result of a general upswing that started in the last quarter of 1975. I think that another 6 per cent across the board giving a 10 per cent increase in export volume would put us into a sound long-term expansion. There must be many companies who could do that and more.'

The Glasgow conference was the first in Scotland of a series of export conferences to be held in all the major industrial centres of the UK over a period of 18 months.

During a visit to the Barrhead Kid Co. Ltd., Gateside, Scotland, on 25 February, The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman designate, British Overseas Trade Board, examines the range of leather for shoe uppers produced by the company. On the left is Mr. John Wright, managing director and son of the founder.

Anglo-Norwegian Forum

The Forum on Anglo-Norwegian Trade held at the London Chamber of Commerce on 18 February was organised by the London Chamber and *not* by the BOTB's Overseas Visitors Bureau as stated in the 27 February issue of *Trade and Industry*. The event was hosted by Sir Peter Tennant, Chairman of the Chamber's West European Committee.

Exports equal jobs and a better living standard

'It is never more true than today to say that our jobs and our standard of living depend upon success in exports,' said Mr. S. D. Wilks, Chief Executive of the British Overseas Trade Board, speaking to the West Riding branch of the Institute of Export in Leeds last week. Control of inflation must remain a prime objective of government policy, but higher exports would also make a vital contribution to counter inflation by improving the balance of payments and thus helping to strengthen sterling. Greater investment in productive capacity would also lead to greater exports and more regular jobs.

Mr. Wilks suggested five ways by which individual firms could help themselves and offer better employment prospects through achieving greater exports during the next year:

1 Seeing whether greater exports would strengthen their financial position;

2 Paying attention to the need to design products for individual markets and, at the same time, looking at the advantages of selling in the local currency;

3 Considering concentrating on their most successful products in the most successful markets. This might lead to greater success than 'over-trading';

4 Using the wide range of BOTB services for exporters;

5 Encouraging management and staff to co-operate in safeguarding their jobs and standard of living through greater effort in the export market.

Mr. Wilks emphasised that the outlook for British exports in 1976 is already encouraging and said that 'we may now be seeing the start of an export-led recovery.' He referred to a recent survey which shows that the major exporting companies in Britain expect to see their export deliveries increased by 7 per cent in volume during the first three quarters of this year.

Paris office for hire

In order to book the use of the Paris office, mentioned on page 501 of our issue of 20 February, would readers please contact the British Chamber of Commerce, France, at 6 rue Halévy, 75009 Paris, or ring 073-49-21.

Duke of Edinburgh at Slough export conference

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend part of a major export campaign – the West London and Slough Export Conference – which will take place on 4-5 May, aimed at boosting the overseas sales of firms in west London.

The event is one of a series being staged in major centres throughout the country, organised by the BOTB under the chairmanship of Sir Frederick Catherwood.

The campaign includes a conference at the Centre Airport Hotel, Heathrow, a visit by The Duke of Edinburgh to Instron Ltd., High Wycombe, and further visits to some successful exporting firms in the area by Sir Frederick and other members of the board.

At the conference an invited audience of some 250 representatives of management and the shop floor will hear four detailed case studies, being prepared by the Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, which aim to demonstrate how a variety of British companies have made a major success of selling their goods in export markets.

The audio-visual case studies will be presented by a TV personality after which delegates will be invited to discuss the four examples with a panel comprising BOTB members and representatives of the firms concerned.

Britain exported £982 million to the Netherlands last year. Isn't it time you got a slice of the cake?

NB

We can research the potential within the Dutch market for your product, assist in setting up operations, or conduct an agency search. With established contacts in government, commerce and banking etc. we can introduce you to the right people. And all at very low cost.

Contact: Mr. Alabaster. Tel: 01-405 1358
THE NETHERLANDS-BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
307 High Holborn, London WC1V 7LS

Hints to businessmen

Department of Trade's *Hints to Businessmen* booklets cover over 100 countries individually, and provide invaluable information on such subjects as industries, economic factors, the extent of imports and exports, population, travel, hotels, climate, currency and public holidays. Copies are available free to British businessmen visiting any country on export business. Apply to: Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146).

8000 EXPORTERS

FIS carry out continuous research into the activity of UK exporters —who they are, how much they export, and to which countries.

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Exhibitions and Fairs

Fair winds for British boats at Gothenburg's international show

From Thomas Abraham, British Consul (Commercial), British Consulate-General, Gothenburg: Austere times have been predicted for Sweden in 1976, and restrictions have been imposed on banks for loans to individuals, but this was certainly not reflected in the interest shown and results achieved at the 17th Swedish International Boat Show in Gothenburg. By the time it closed its gates on 13 February more than 120,000 visitors had been counted through the turnstiles. This is an all-time record, and so was the number of exhibitors, boats and engines.

Some 565 exhibitors from 20 countries displayed nearly 500 motor and sailing boats, about 450 engines and countless fittings and accessories in the packed exhibition halls with an overflow into the surrounding fairgrounds. A large tent had been erected outside the main hall to accommodate some of the many latecomers. One large British exhibit, the 'Moonraker', had to be placed in the street just outside the main entrance.

Actual or total sales are impossible to record at a show of this type, but indications point clearly to yet another broken record. The dark clouds on the horizon do not appear to have affected the habits of this boating nation. One Swede in every 12 owns a boat. A careful survey shows that there are about 670,000 leisure boats in the countless Swedish rivers and lakes, and around its long coastline. In 1975 about 48,000 boats and 40,000 outboard engines were sold in this market, and it is estimated that in spite of petrol costs motor boats will retain a 50 per cent share of total boat sales.

Competition is extremely keen and Sweden has a large and export-minded boat industry of its own. Nevertheless imports last year rose to nearly 30 per cent of total sales. British boat builders and equipment manufacturers have greatly increased their share, but our exports to Sweden are still far behind those of the other two Scandinavian countries and Finland.

For the second year running a compact and attractive British joint venture occupied a central position in two adjoining main halls. Thirteen British companies sponsored by the SBBNF and with the support of the BOTB showed a great variety of boats and boating accessories. It was a most representative selection with a choice of anything from Avon's inflatable sportboats to Westerley's beautiful sail boats in the £25,000 range. In addition to this concentration of attractive boats and practical fittings another 60 British exhibitors were showing their products on the stands of their agents or Swedish subsidiaries.

It was most heartening to listen to all the success stories on the British stand on the last day of the show. Most of the boats were carrying 'sold' signs, and without exception everyone wanted to come back to the Swedish west coast again next year. The largest boat was the Westerley 'Conway', shown in Sweden for the first time. They hoped to repeat their success at last year's show when a number of sales were concluded in the following weeks. Cobramold, Fletcher, Fi-Craft, Newbridge, Poole, Shetland, Small Craft and Winner all recorded results above expectations. If at first buyers seemed a little cautious, last year's sales were expected to be equalled eventually, and in some cases had already been greatly exceeded. One exhibitor had sold 31 boats, another nearly 20, and in no case were actual sales less than three or four boats.

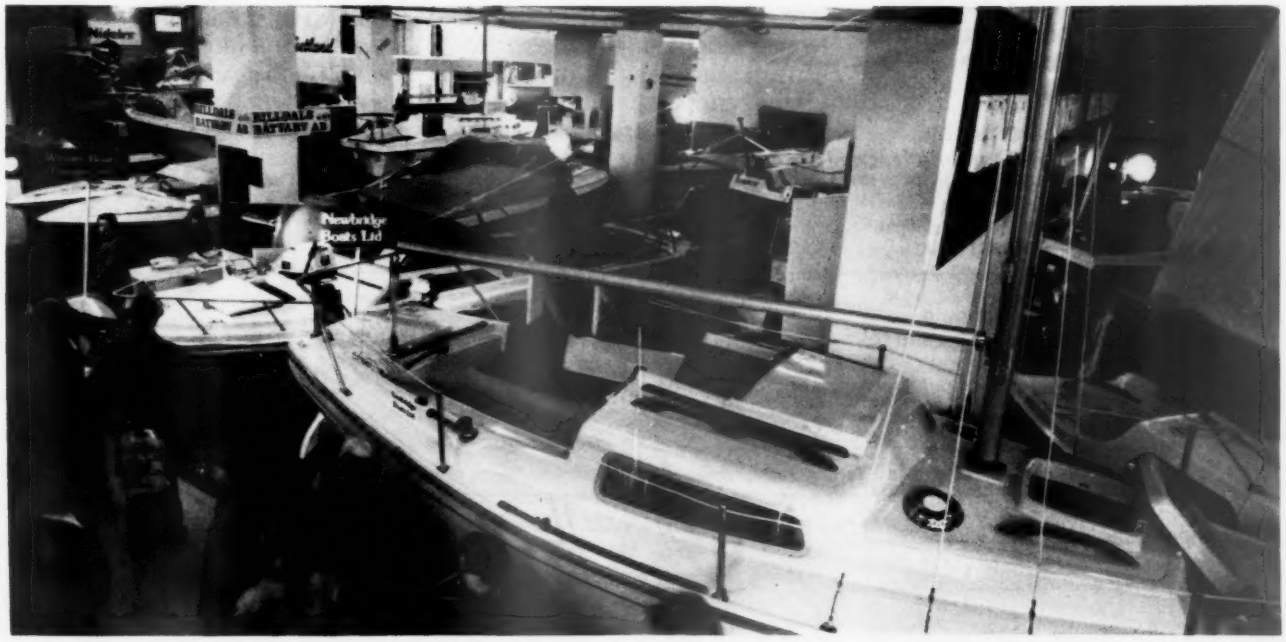
Next year it is hoped that a new exhibition hall will have been constructed to relieve some of the congestion experienced this year. British companies having discovered the great potential of this ever-increasing boat market will no doubt return in even greater numbers. British products have proved themselves to be correct in design, quality and price.

Not enough space at Frankfurt

A total of 130 British companies – all manufacturers of consumer goods – including many household names, were represented at the Frankfurt International Spring Trade Fair from 22-26 February. Indeed, the number of British exhibitors was limited by the amount of space available.

This year more than 3,000 exhibitors from 50 countries took part in the Frankfurt fair,

Part of the strong contingent of British boats at Gothenburg.



subtitled 'World Market for the Beautiful Things'. Consequently, it was an essential showplace for the best of British design. In 1975 over 84,000 visitors came to the fair from all over the world.

The 130 British firms were exhibiting with the support of the BOTB in association with eight other organisations: the British Art Metal Manufacturers Export Group, the British Ceramic Manufacturers Federation, the British Jewellery and Giftware Federation, the Design Council, the Association of Musical Instrument Industries, the UK Cutlery and Silverware Manufacturers Association, the Piano Manufacturers Association, and the British Stationery and Products Federation. This variety of sponsors illustrates the exceptional range of British products on display.

Exploring Japan's domestic appliance market

From R. S. Howe, First Secretary (Commercial), British Embassy, Tokyo: The fact that Japan is a leading world manufacturer of domestic electrical appliances offering a range and variety probably unmatched anywhere in the world, did not deter 14 of Britain's leading appliance manufacturers from visiting Tokyo in January to explore the market prospects for their latest ranges of electrical and gas appliances. This market exploration took the form of an exhibition, jointly sponsored by AMDEA and the BOTB, at the British Export Marketing Centre from 27 to 31 January. The exhibition attracted about 1,100 Japanese trade visitors during its five-day run.

Because electrical and gas appliances cannot be marketed in Japan until they have been tested and approved as complying with the stringent safety standards laid down by the Japanese Government, no immediate business could be expected from the exhibition and, indeed, none resulted. However, very interesting inquiries, which could result in substantial future business, were received by GEC Xpelair Ltd. for their range of extractor fans and humidifiers; by Creda International (Appliances) Ltd. for their small tumbler dryer and flame effect fires; by N. C. Joseph Ltd. for their stove percolators, and by Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Co. Ltd. for their muted ventilation units.

E. Chidlow and Co. Ltd. and Thorne Domestic Appliances (Export) Ltd. successfully appointed distributors for their range of slim panel heaters and Russell Hobbs appliances respectively, while representation arrangements are under negotiation by Rima Electric Ltd. (fan heaters, cooker hoods and grills), F. Greenwood and Sons Ltd. (Storad electric storage heaters and Pye Ltd. (Ekco hostess products).

Dimplex Ltd., Potterton International Ltd., BOC Ltd. and Cona Coffee Machine Co. Ltd., who are already well established in the Japanese market, found the exhibition provided a good vehicle for extending their range of contacts.

Muted menswear show in Copenhagen

From Margaret Maxwell, Commercial Officer, British Embassy, Copenhagen: The 10th Scandinavian Menswear Fair took place at the new Bella Centre Exhibition Halls on Amager, Copenhagen, from 15-17 February. This was the first clothing fair to be held in the new buildings and the first time in the history of the fair that all the exhibitors have been housed under one roof.

The Scandinavian clothing manufacturers who used to have permanent showrooms in 'The Fashion Mart' attached to the Sheraton Hotel in the centre of town have now moved into their showrooms on the first and second floors of the new Bella Centre. The remaining exhibitors were housed in Hall B at street level, with a Scandinavian section at one end of the hall and an international section at the other end.

The 14 British firms exhibiting under joint venture terms with the support of the BOTB and the Clothing Export Council were well placed in the international section, but the decor of the joint-venture area was a bit too subdued compared to the colourful stands surrounding it.

There was some disappointment that more buyers did not attend from Finland and Norway, and it will be necessary to attract these buyers in future if the fair is to grow to any sizeable proportions. Considering the newness of the building, the relatively untried

Opportunity Germany

A One Day Seminar, from the people who know Germany best, on March 24th at the Excelsior Hotel, near Manchester Airport.

We invite you to a one day seminar on British-German trade and investment opportunities in West Germany, which is being sponsored by the Lufthansa Business Service and the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce in the UK.

West Germany is Britain's second largest trading partner in the world, and her biggest in the EEC. As both countries' economies are on the upturn we thought it was the right time to make the British businessman more aware of the market scene today, and to give whatever practical assistance we can.

The seminar will begin at 10.00 a.m. with a talk on "The Marketing Opportunity", and will be followed by talks on "Financial Aspects", "Taxation – Corporate and Personal", "Patents, Licences, Trademarks and Production Rights", "The Economic Aspects of British-German Trade and Investment". Each talk will be followed by questions and answers. The fee for this seminar – which also covers lunch with wine, pre-lunch drinks and afternoon tea is £16.20 (incl. VAT) per person.

Lufthansa Business Service

For return to Miss D Friedmann
German Chamber of Industry and Commerce in the UK
11 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EE

Opportunity Germany,
Wednesday, 24th March 1976, 10.00 hrs,
Excelsior Hotel, near Manchester Airport.

I/we will be attending the above seminar and enclose cheque for £ _____ (£16.20 per person)

Name(s)_____ Address_____

_____ _____

Company_____ _____ Postcode_____

Company's Business_____

Telephone_____

Please indicate with a tick if a VAT invoice is required and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your remittance. ☐

Hats for all seasons at Copenhagen's 10th Scandinavian Menswear Fair, held from 15-17 February.

catering services and the fact that in many ways this was a 'first' fair, the results were not too bad.

Between 5-6,000 buyers attended and British firms like Gloverall, Harberry and D. Byford, already well established in the market, found it a useful way in which to contact their major customers. Firms new to the market were disappointed not to take bigger orders but even in this group, Castletex Clothes of Castleford managed to get a worth while order as a complete newcomer.

It will be interesting to watch whether the Scandinavian Menswear Fair develops into a major fair on the international circuit in the way that the Scandinavian Womenswear Fair has done.

Sporting chances in the United States

From Norman A. Olson, British Vice Consul (Commercial), Chicago: Chicago was again host to the 47th Annual National Sporting Goods Association convention and show which was held in the McCormick Place Exhibition Centre from 5-8 February. The NSGA Show, which is not open to the public, drew a record attendance of 46,514 trade visitors to review more than 1,700 lines of sporting goods from 1,506 exhibiting companies.

A record 45 British firms participated at the show in a joint venture sponsored by the BOTB, The Federation of British Manufacturers of Sports and Games and the Camping Trade Association of Great Britain. The FBMSG co-sponsored a group of 28 firms exhibiting on the main level of McCormick Place while the CTA group consisted of 17 firms exhibiting on the upper level.

In addition to the British group exhibits there were government-sponsored exhibits from Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand and Spain. A special International Businessmen's Centre was run by the NSGA to service the large number of overseas guests.

Surge of interest

United States consumer purchases of sporting goods have increased from $1 billion in 1947 to more than $9 billion in 1975. With this growth sports interests have also become more diverse. Not only have sales of traditional American sporting goods such as baseballs, footballs and basketballs continued to climb but other lines register dramatic gains each year as well. For example, there has been a surge of interest by Americans in archery, tennis, soccer, camping, backpacking, darts and bicycling.

Kwiz Darts Ltd., Tru-Lon Darts Ltd. and Unicorn Products Ltd. represented British dart suppliers. Barry Twomlow, the international British darts champion was the instructor and demonstrator at the Unicorn stand. With its new subsidiary in Reston, Virginia, Tru-Lon claims to be the first dart company to open a subsidiary in another country. Exhibitors in the fields of golf and tennis included A. W. Phillips Ltd., J. Price (Bath) Ltd., John Thompson Sports Ltd., Squash International (golf equipment and squash rackets) and the well established Slazengers Ltd.

Big business

Athletic clothing and footwear is big business not only with the sports participant but also for casual and leisure wear. As never before in the United States tennis apparel, sports shoes and soccer/rugby type jerseys are becoming a must for retail clothing and department stores. Soccer and rugby jerseys are also very popular for hiking and bicycling. Capitalising on these trends were British exhibitors of sports apparel: Gymphlex Ltd., Litesome Sportswear, Mercury International, Spall Sports, Spectator Sports and Umbro International. The sports footwear market was covered by Gola Sports, Kingswell Sports, William Lamb and Co., Stylo Matchmakers, Tebbutt and Hall Bros Ltd. and George Ward Men's Footwear Ltd.

In conjunction with their US distributors, SOS Swimwear introduced their Davy fisherman belt and Davy anglers rescue flotation pack and pouch. Haffenden-Richborough exhibited swimcaps, squash balls and racquet presses while Morris Vulcan Ltd. had roller skates and skateboards. Edwards Sports Nets is well established in the market and Cantabrian Ltd. surveyed the market for their track and field equipment. Herbert Terry and Sons showed their line of exercise equipment for the first time in the United States and are negotiating with potential distributors. Stuart Surridge and Co. Ltd. commented that as the American soccer market continues to develop and greater experience in the game is obtained, the advantages of a top quality hand-sewn ball are being realised. Many of the coaches are now recommending their Cobbler ball.

Camping, hiking and backpacking continue rapid growth in the American market and covering the mountaineering aspect of this recreational sport were Clogwyn Climbing Gear, Mountaineering Activities Ltd., Troll Products and Ultimate Equipment Ltd. To get to the camp site with ease C.S. Products exhibited their collapsible camp trailers. Other camp needs were provided for by Hampton Works (tent pegs, poles and frames), Lytham Leisure Products (camp stoves and waterproof clothing) and Transtrip Ltd. camping lights.

Marine market

Avon Inflatables are primarily involved in the marine market but find the NSGA show very useful in their increased efforts to get boats to the sporting goods dealer. Peter Storm foul weather gear and sweaters are also strong marine market products that do well at the NSGA show.

More leisure time, more disposable income, more emphasis on individual and participation sports, attention to physical fitness for health and appearance, shorter work weeks, plus the sheer joy of sport all point to ever-increasing interest in recreational and athletic activities. British exhibitors at the 1976 NSGA show are taking advantage of this American sports interest and are an integral part of the largest sporting goods trade show in the United States.

In 1977 The National Sporting Goods Association convention and show will again be in Chicago's McCormick Place, 3-6 February.

European Community News

Community's fusion programme on research council agenda

The community's five-year fusion programme 1976–80, including the Joint European Torus (JET), was the main item on the agenda for the council of ministers (research) on 24 February.

Britain was represented in the discussions by Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Energy, and Neil Carmichael, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Industry.

Ministers agreed in principle on a budget of 124 million units of account for the community's contribution to all items of the fusion programme with the exception of JET, but decided to release funds (20.8 mua) for the first year only, pending decisions on JET.

Ministers also decided that a consultative committee on fusion should be set up to report to them and to the commission.

A large majority, including the UK, favoured the preparation by this consultative committee and the commission of a supplement to the siting report. This supplement might have dealt, among other things, with the further studies which the UK and others believe to be necessary on the site, cost estimates, construction time and engineering of JET. However, unanimity could not be achieved and no decisions were taken on this or any other aspect of the JET programme.

It is, however, still open to the commission, under Article 135 of the Euratom Treaty, to invite the consultative committee or any other group it choses to carry out such studies.

The council agreed that discussions on JET should continue at its next meeting, provisionally fixed for 18 June.

The meeting also saw the adoption of three indirect action research programmes. The first – a biology and health protection programme – is concerned with the assessment of the direct and genetic effects of ionising radiation as a basis for radiation protection standards, and of means of tackling health and ecological aspects of nuclear risks.

For the most part, the work will be carried out by means of association or cost-sharing contracts, but some will be done by the community biology group at the joint research centre at Ispra, Italy. Funds worth a total of 39 mua have been earmarked for the project.

The second programme – a five-year environmental research and development programme – will receive 16 mua in funds.

Five ministerial meetings planned for March

Beginning with this week's foreign affairs and agricultural councils, a programme of five EEC council meetings has been planned for March.

Details of the meetings were given in the House of Commons by Roy Hattersley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, on 25 February.

The foreign ministers' council on Monday and Tuesday this week was expected to consider a report on direct elections to the European parliament and preparations for the next European council on 1-2 April, as well as to review progress of the work in the four commissions set up following the Conference on International Economic Co-operation.

It was also expected to consider the problems for the community fishing industry which will be raised by the establishment of the 200-mile economic zones; preparations for the association council meeting with Turkey; the commission report on negotiations with Spain; the agreements with the Maghreb countries (Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco); the opening of negotiations with Greece for a second financial protocol; tropical products in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations; and relations with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

Ministers, said Mr. Hattersley, were also likely to consider preparations for the meeting of the Unctad trade and development board arranged for 8-19 March.

Meanwhile this week's agriculture council (2 and 3 March), and a later meeting on 15 and 16 of the month, would continue discussions on common agricultural policy prices for 1976-77 and on measures to improve the community wine market. Ministers would discuss amended arrangements for beef imports and a number of measures for improving agricultural structures. They might also consider proposals for a community potato regime and the problems for the community fishing industry which would be raised by the establishment of 200-mile economic zones.

A finance council was scheduled for 15 March when ministers would make the first formal review in 1976 of the economic situation in the community following the convergence decision of 18 February 1974. They would also consider Euratom loans for nuclear power stations and hear a report on the first session of the financial commission of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation.

Finally, Mr. Hattersley explained that the ministers at the energy council on 25 of the month would have before them the commission's proposals to meet the guidelines given by the European council of 1-2 December last year for a community energy policy. These covered mechanisms to protect existing energy resources and the development of alternative sources, as well as the encouragement of energy conservation. Ministers might also consider other proposals on oil matters which had been submitted to earlier councils.

EEC commission president Francois-Xavier Ortoli (left) with President Ford in Washington on 24 February. During meetings with the President, several members of the US administration and a number of congressmen, M. Ortoli expressed the community's concern at the threat of growing protectionism in the US. (AP Wirephoto.)

The research project will acquire the necessary know-how for the implementation of the community's environmental programme and will cover four areas: the first will establish criteria for pollutants and potentially toxic chemicals; the second concerns environmental information management, with particular emphasis on chemicals likely to contaminate the environment; the third, the reduction and prevention of pollutants; and the fourth the protection and improvement of the natural environment.

The third research programme adopted is designed to strengthen and co-ordinate national efforts in the field of reference materials and methods of measurement. A maximum of 2.7 mua has been allocated to the project.

Draft export bank regulation goes to the council

A proposal for a European export bank to facilitate exports of goods and services involving jointly two or more undertakings located in different EEC member states has been forwarded as a draft regulation to the council by the commission.

The EEB, which would provide credit insurance and help for financing exports, would have an initial capital of 100 million units of account to be allocated from the community budget. But most of its resources would be obtained by borrowing on national and international financial markets, with community guarantees up to a ceiling to be fixed annually in the budget.

By providing a mixed capital structure the commission hopes to achieve a maximum degree of flexibility in the bank's operations, and to ensure the close monitoring of its commitments. The proposal provides for a review of the EEB's capital structure once the bank has been set up.

A board of directors consisting of 10 regular members and 10 alternates would be appointed by the member states and the commission to act on proposals from a management committee and to take decisions on all the bank's operations.

An EEB plan was outlined for the first time by commission president François-Xavier Ortoli in February last year. Further details were published by the commission in a consultative document last July. The latest proposal summarises the results of last autumn's consultations with those active in this field within the community.

It points out that there was general agreement on the inadequacy of existing arrangements to cope with the expected growth of large multinational contracts. Some felt that the answer lay in greater harmonisation of existing national systems. But, after weighing the arguments, the commission had concluded that an EEB would provide the best solution for this problem.

New EIB loans for British Gas

Two new loans together totalling the equivalent of £20 million (34.7 million units of account) have been granted by the European Investment Bank to the British Gas Corporation.

The money will help finance the laying of the pipeline network which will deliver natural gas from the Frigg field in the North Sea to Scotland and northern England and connect up with the national distribution grid.

The loans are for 10 years at an interest rate of 9½ per cent and they bring to £67.8 million the finance provided by the EIB for different sections of this major scheme which will cost, altogether, more than £200 million.

In June last year £24.2 million was provided in two loans for construction of a pipeline between Bathgate, near Edinburgh, and the coastal terminal at St. Fergus in the Grampian region where the Frigg gas will come ashore by submarine pipeline. The project also included an extension to Preston in Lancashire, with a branch at Longtown, near Carlisle, to Bishop Auckland, County Durham. In July a further two loans, totalling £23.6 million, were granted for a second pipeline between St. Fergus and Bathgate.

The latest works which the EIB is helping to finance include a second pipeline between Bathgate and Longtown, reinforcing delivery capacity, and construction of a compressor station, powered by two 25,000 hp engines, at Moffat, about half-way along this line.

First supplies from the Frigg field, which straddles the median line between the British and Norwegian sectors of the North Sea, are expected to flow ashore late in 1977. They will eventually enable the British Gas Corporation to increase by about one-third the natural gas presently available for industrial, commercial and household consumption in the United Kingdom. This represents an important contribution to the EEC's drive to maximise energy resources within the community and reduce dependence on oil imports.

The project promises significant regional benefits since the Frigg gas will be made available to industry in development areas in Scotland and Northern England, apart from elsewhere in Britain.

Eric Deakins (right), Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade, with Janko Smole, Yugoslav Federal Minister responsible for relations with the EEC, during Mr. Smole's two-day visit to London on 25-26 February. Their wide-ranging discussions covered mutual economic problems, Anglo-Yugoslav trade matters, and prospects for further co-operation between the two countries.

More on the EEC

Information on EEC matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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New EC legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulation (EEC) 335/76 amending Regulation 225/67/EEC on detailed rules for determining the world market price for oil seeds (*Official Journal* L42, 18 February 1976).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 337/76 temporarily including until 31 March 1976, butteroil in the list of processed products covered by the system of advance payment of refunds. In Annex I to Regulation (EEC) 441/69, the following heading shall be inserted after the one relating to CCT heading 04.02:

CCT heading no.	Description of goods
ex 04.03	Butter of a fat content, by weight, exceeding 99.5%

Fish and fish products. Regulation (EEC) 339/76 fixing the community producer price of tunny intended for the canning industry for the period from 1 March 1976 to 31 December 1976 of the 1976 fishing year (*Official Journal* L43, 19 February 1976).

Cereals and rice. Regulation (EEC) 345/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 2849/75 on measures relating to imports of rice and broken rice originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States or in the overseas countries and territories (*Official Journal* L43, 19 February 1976).

Fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 348/76 on measures to be taken owing to the difficulties affecting potato supplies (*Official Journal* L43, 19 February 1976).

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 360/76 amending for the sixth time Regulation (EEC) 2005/70 on the classification of vine varieties (*Official Journal* L44, 20 February 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 378/76 amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) 1143/74 as regards the amount of subsidies for wine products similar to the wine product exported under the label of 'Cyprus Sherry' produced in the community as originally constituted and consigned to Ireland or to the United Kingdom during the period 1 January to 30 June 1976 (*Official Journal* L45, 21 February 1976).

Pigs and pigmeat. Regulation (EEC) 367/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 2759/75 in respect of the reference period for calculating the levy and the sluice-gate price for pig carcases (*Official Journal* L45, 21 February 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 370/76 amending Regulations (EEC) 2764/75 and (EEC) 2766/75 in respect of the reference period for calculating the levy and the sluice-gate price for pig carcases (*Official Journal* L45, 21 February 1976).

Eggs and poultrymeat. Regulation (EEC) 368/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 2771/75 in respect of the reference period for calculating the levy and the sluice-gate price for eggs (*Official Journal* L45, 21 February 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 369/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 2777/75 in respect of the reference period for calculating the levy and the sluice-gate price for poultrymeat (*Official Journal* L45, 21 February 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 371/76 amending Regulations (EEC) 2773/75 and (EEC) 2778/75 in respect of the reference period for calculating the levies and the sluice-gate prices for eggs and poultrymeat (*Official Journal* L45, 21 February 1976).

Common customs tariff

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L43, 19 February 1976, contains the texts of the following regulations:

Regulation (EEC) 340/76 temporarily and partially suspending the autonomous duty in the common customs tariff on foliage of asparagus plumosus of subheading ex 06.04 B I.

Regulation (EEC) 341/76 temporarily and totally suspending the customs duty applicable in the community as originally constituted to foliage of asparagus plumosus falling within subheading ex 06.04 B I of the common customs tariff and imported from the new member states.

Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L43, 19 February 1976, contains the text of Decision 76/226/EEC authorising France to apply protective measures in trade within the community in wines falling within subheading 22.05 C of the common customs tariff coming from Greece.

EEC rules of competition

The texts of the following commission decisions relating to proceedings under Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

76/159/EEC dated 15 December 1976 (reference DGIV/847) Schwarzwalder Apparate-Bau-Anstalt August Schwer und Sohne GMbH (SABA) relating to agreements for selective distribution of radios, televisions and tape recorders. Amendments have been made to some of the agreements that were considered to be incompatible with the rules of competition and, subject to certain conditions, the commission has granted exemption under Article 85(3) of the treaty for a period of six years from 22 July 1974 until 21 July 1980 (*Official Journal* L28, 3 February 1976).

76/172/EEC dated 15 December 1975 (reference DGIV/27.073) Bayer AG/Gist-Brocades NV relating to agreements for the manufacture and supply of raw penicillin and 6-amino-penicillanic acid (6-APA). Subject to certain obligations the commission has granted exemption under Article 85(3) of the treaty for a period of eight years until 31 December 1983 (*Official Journal* L30, 5 February 1976).

Further information: Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5092.

Applications for copies of the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

Greece: duty reductions

Trade and Industry of 30 May 1975, reported on the signing of the additional protocol to the EEC/Greece Association Agreement under which Greece eliminates the difference between the duties she charges the Six, and those she charges the three new member states of the EEC (including the UK).

Accordingly, on 1 January 1976 Greek duties charged to the UK are reduced by 80 per cent of the *difference* between duties charged to the Six up to 1 July 1975, and those charged to the new member states before that date. (Duties were reduced by 60 per cent of the pre-1 July 1975 rate, as charged to the Six, on that date.) Inquiries: Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section, Department of Trade, tel. 01-248 5757, ext 439.

EEC - your questions answered

This week, we are publishing a selection of questions put to the Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit during the past month.

The Unit helps businessmen by answering general questions about EEC membership. Its prime responsibility is with those matters which are the concern of the Departments of Industry, Trade, Prices and Consumer Protection, but it is usually possible to direct an inquirer to sources of specialist advice in other Government departments.

Contact the Unit by ringing 01-215 4301 (six lines) or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

EEC summer time

Q. In order to avoid problems arising from time differences, can you supply me with details of summer time periods in the EEC member states?

A. Four member states, France, Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom will be applying summer time in 1976. These four countries will have three different summer time periods.

UK and Ireland	21 March to 24 October(seven months)
France	28 March to 26 September (six months)
Italy	30 May to 25 September (four months)

In Ireland and the United Kingdom, where winter time is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), summer time will be GMT + 1. In France and Italy where winter time is GMT + 1, summer time will be GMT + 2.

The countries have chosen not only different dates but also different times for changing clocks.

UK and Ireland	2.00 am on Sunday
France	1.00 am on Sunday
Italy	12.00 midnight on Saturday

The other member states apply central European time, GMT + 1, throughout the year.

In order to avoid such problems in the future the commission has presented a proposal for a directive to ensure that summer time will start and end on the same dates in 1977, 1978 and 1979 in member states applying summer time. This is being considered by individual member states. If any alteration is made to the existing arrangements full details will be given in *Trade and Industry*.

Exemption from rules of competition

Q. I have heard that agreements between suppliers and commercial agents who work on a commission basis are not caught by the EEC's rules of competition. Is this correct?

A. The European commission has announced that it considers that agreements between firms and commercial agents as distinct from independent traders, are not caught by Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome. The commission's assessment as to whether the contracting party is a commercial agent or an independent trader is not governed by the name used to describe the representative but by his function as an auxiliary to the other party of the contract, and commercial agents in this sense are those who negotiate on behalf of their principals without assuming financial responsibility for any goods.

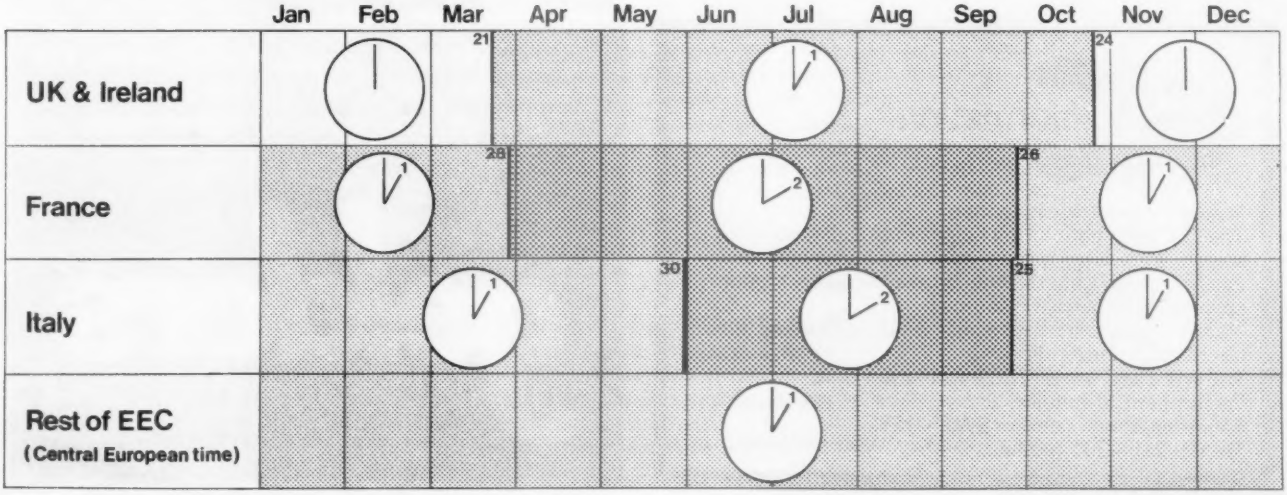
Exclusive dealing agreements between a supplier and an independent trader who takes possession of the goods do come within the scope of the rules of competition, but the commission has exempted from the prohibition contained in Article 85 certain categories of exclusive dealing agreements which it believes are not harmful to the community's aims.

The exemption runs until the end of 1982 and details are given in EEC Regulations 67 of 1967 and 2591 of 1972. These are published in the 'Secondary Legislation of the European Communities: Subject Edition – Vol. 4 Competition' (available from HMSO, price £1.37½).

The community joint float

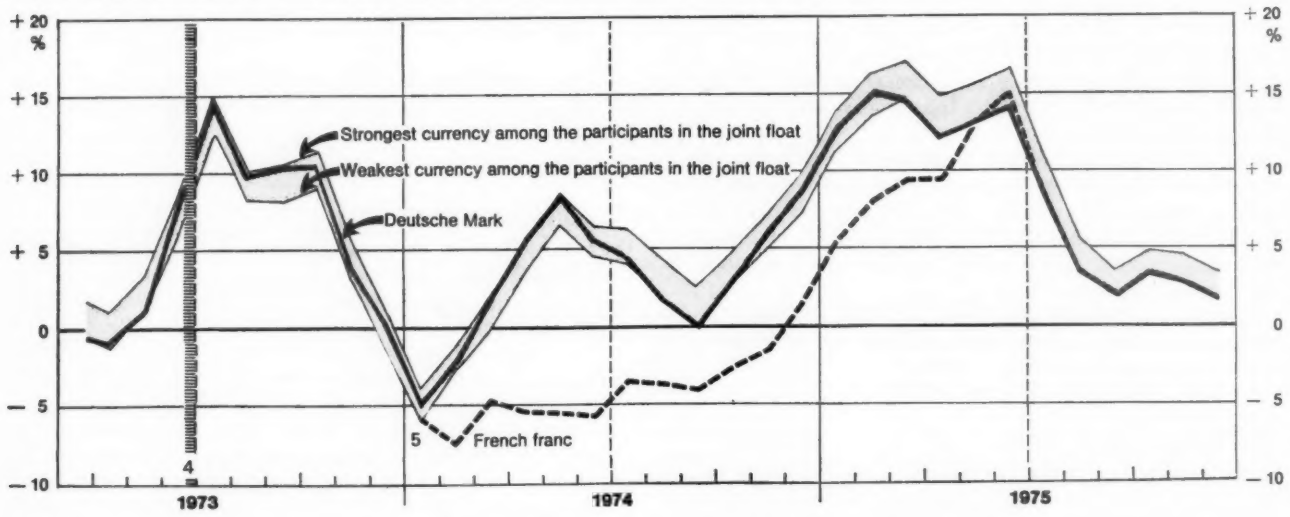
Q. In his recent report on European union, M. Tindemans mentioned that the machinery of the 'snake' should be used as a departure point for action to seek a

Telling the time in the EEC



The 'snake' Movement of exchange rates of the currencies participating in the European joint float[1]

Percentage deviations of exchange rates from the central rates of 14 February 1973[2,3]



1 On 19 March 1973 six EEC countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands) together with Norway and Sweden started the joint float against the US dollar (while maintaining a common margin of fluctuation of 2¼ per cent against each other).
2 Calculated on the basis of official rates: monthly averages based on Friday figures.
3 Deutsche Mark, guilder and Norwegian krone: percentage deviations as from 19 March 1973 from arithmetical dollar central rates.
4 Revaluation of Deutsche Mark on 29 June 1973.
5 Between 21 January 1974 and 9 July 1975 France did not participate in the European joint float.

Chart by courtesy of the Deutsche Bundesbank

convergence of community economic and monetary policies. What is the 'snake' exactly?

A. This is the informal description of the EEC scheme aimed at narrowing the margins of fluctuation between community currencies. It is sometimes also called the community joint float. At present currencies are not tied into fixed exchange rates with each other or by reference to the official price of gold. Their values change daily.

In April 1972, however, the central banks of the community member states agreed, in implementation of a council resolution dated 21 March 1972, to rules for the narrowing of margins of fluctuation between community currencies. Under this agreement, participating central banks act as necessary in their own markets to ensure that the spot exchange rate between two participating currencies is never more than 2¼ per cent different from any other rates between snake currencies.

The word 'snake' is used because, when charted, the exchange rates of members of the joint float against non-members look like an undulating band (see chart above).

Sterling, which had been kept within the snake from March 1972, left it in June 1972 when the Bank of England suspended maintenance of dealing within official limits. At present the currencies of all EEC members except the UK, Ireland and Italy are within the snake. The currencies of Norway and Sweden are associated with it.

EEC information

Free service for businessmen!
The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about EEC membership and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources.
New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.
The unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.
Tel. 01-215 4301 (six lines).

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Trade Information

Arrangements for licensing exports of non-alloy ferrous scrap to countries outside the European community

The arrangements for licensing exports of non-alloy ferrous scrap to countries outside the European community are to continue for a further three months from 1 April 1976. Applications for licences valid from 1 April should be received not later than 15 March. The possibility of revising licensing arrangements for subsequent quarters is to be considered in consultation with the British Scrap Federation.

The quota for the quarter commencing 1 April 1976 has yet to be decided but it will be notified to the trade as soon as practicable. Under the established arrangements agreed for scrap in the community, licences should be valid for two months and should be granted only to qualified exporters who normally deal with third countries, on evidence of firm orders. As far as possible licences should not be issued in any one month for a total tonnage of more than one-third of the quota for the quarter.

Licences under the quota will be restricted to established traders in non-alloy ferrous scrap and preference will be given to established exporters. The tonnage allocated will be related to, *inter alia*, the volume of firm orders obtained by the applicant direct from a buyer in a third country to which the export is to be made.

Export performance against licences issued will be taken into account in the consideration of allocations.

Export licences are expected to be available for the following types of non-alloy ferrous scrap only:

1 compressed baled material, other than compressed unused sheet and sheet cuttings;

2 loose used wrought material containing 90 per cent or more, by weight, of a material of a thickness not exceeding 3mm;

3 turnings and borings.

Applications are now invited for export licences which will be valid for a period of not more than two months. The validity of a licence will not be extended beyond this period if the licence is not wholly used. Applications should be supported by documentary evidence (in English) of firm orders to sell to a buyer in a non-community country to which the export is to be made (subject to the availability of United Kingdom export licence), stipulated tonnages of any one or more of the specified types of ferrous scrap in any stipulated period commencing not earlier than 1 April. Telex messages giving full details will be accepted but must be followed by the written confirmation of the overseas buyer within not more than two weeks afterwards. Additional supporting information is required, where appropriate, as follows:

a From any applicant who did *not* receive a licence to export non-alloy ferrous scrap to third countries in the period January/March 1976,

i a statement of the total tonnage of non-alloy ferrous scrap which the applicant traded in the last 12 months.

ii details of the total tonnage of exports in each month from 1 April 1975 to date of non-alloy ferrous scrap made by the applicant as follows:

	To community destinations	To third countries
i Exports against own orders		
ii Exports against orders obtained by others		

Note: If this information has already been supplied in respect of any period since 1 April 1975 it will suffice merely to provide information relating to other months.

b From any applicant who received a licence to export non-alloy ferrous scrap to third countries in the period January/March 1976 details of their exports of such scrap to community destinations in January, February and March to date:

i against their own orders

ii against orders obtained by others.

Applications for licences valid from 1 April should be received not later than 15 March. Applications or evidence of further orders may be submitted after that date on the understanding that it may then no longer be practicable to take these into account in the licences issued from 1 April 1976. Later applications will however be taken into account in subsequent months until the quota is exhausted.

Applications for export licences accompanied by the relevant supporting evidence as requested, should be forwarded to the Department of Trade, Export Licensing Branch, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Continuation of the present relaxation of controls will depend on adequate supplies being maintained to UK users. No individual export licences are required for the export of ferrous scrap to community countries.

Autotelex to Middle East extended

The programme to provide automatic telex service to the Middle East Arabian countries was extended by the Post Office at the weekend. The latest link, the ninth in a series to provide an autotelex service from Britain to the Middle East, is to four of the United Arab Emirate states: Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman and Umm All Quwain.

British firms have been making about 1,200 operator connected calls a month to the four Sheikdoms. Major users include the oil industry and companies involved in 'invisible' exports.

Call charges are 90p a minute, with a one minute minimum charge. To set up calls customers should follow the procedure described in the current telex directory using the keying code 894.

Britain's international telex service now provides automatic links to 87 countries and 98 per cent of all international telex calls are made direct by customers.

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Cheap suits from Eastern Europe: Mr Shore's letter

Results of the Department of Trade's talks with five East European countries about limiting their exports of wool suits are expected shortly. This was stated by Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, in a letter to the president of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce, Ian Appleyard.

'I have seen press reports', wrote Mr. Shore, 'of a meeting of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce on 24 February when imports of cheap East European suits were discussed and a call for selective import controls and anti-dumping action was made.

'I must make five points:

1 No application for an investigation into dumping of suits from any source has been made by the British clothing industry;
2 Some clothing manufacturers are also significant importers of East European suits;
3 I have made it clear on many occasions that I will not hesitate to use the full force of our anti-dumping powers where a case can be supported. It is for the industry to decide whether it is in their overall interest to submit an application. The speed with which a dumping investigation can be completed depends, at least in part, on the co-operation of the industry;
4 Many suits from cheap sources are already subject to quota controls. These considerably reduce potential damage to our domestic textile industry. We effectively stopped the much publicised £4.80 East German suits reaching the UK;
5 As the industry knows, my officials are now having talks with five East European countries about limiting their exports of wool suits. I expect to be able to announce the results of these talks shortly.

'I am releasing this letter to the press.'

ECGD news

Swedish line of credit. The minimum value of contracts financed by the general purpose line of credit between Midland Bank and Svenska Handelsbanken of Sweden has been reduced from £100,000 to £10,000. This has been announced by the Exports Credit Guarantee Department. Details are available from P. J. Grindlay of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699, ext. 7340) or B. Jarvis of Midland Bank (tel. 01-606 9944, ext. 5016).

Import Duties Act annual report by Department of Trade for year ended 31 March 1975

The Department of Trade, as required by Section 4 of the Import Duties Act 1958, has laid before Parliament a report on the exercise of their powers under the Act during the year ended 31 March 1975.

This report, the sixteenth to be made under the Act, gives details of Orders made during the period under review to vary import duties and to allow exemptions and reliefs from duty (including drawback of duty on exportation) and details of Regulations concerning origin rules. It also gives details of the value of goods which benefited from various existing provisions for relief from duty.

Copies of the report (H of C No. 194) published on 3 March 1976, can be obtained from HM Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn, London WC1, and branches, or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 (price 35p or 41½p by post).

Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.

No. 1545: Imports of bananas from the Dollar Area

To offset expected shortfalls in supplies of fresh bananas to the United Kingdom from other sources, a further supplementary quota of 3,000 tonnes has been established for imports from the Dollar Area.

In order to ensure continuity of imports, the Department of Trade's Import Licensing Branch will allocate the supplementary quota among existing licence holders, having regard to the use they have made of their existing allocations under the current quotas for 1975/76. Import licences will be issued to importers against their allocations only for those amounts for which they can produce evidence of a firm contract with the overseas supplier. Licences issued under these arrangements will not be valid after 30 September 1976.

The Dollar Area, as defined in the Open General Import Licence, means Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Republic of Honduras, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the Philippines, the United States of America and Venezuela.

Inquiries: ILB tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 281.

No. 1546: Community surveillance of imports

United Kingdom licensing arrangements for goods subject to Community import surveillance under the general provisions of Regulation (EEC) 1439/74, were set out in Notices to Importers Nos. 1397, 1447 and 1478.

Importers should note in this context, that, as from 6 March 1976, combined sound recorders and reproducers (tariff heading ex 92.11), originating in and consigned to the United Kingdom from the Non Community Area* may be imported into the UK under the authority of the Open General Import Licence, ie without the need for an individual import licence.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 280.

* The 'Non Community Area' as defined in the Open General Import Licence means all countries and territories outside the EEC.

Tariff and Trade Notices

Finland

Import credit overtime charge. The Bank of Finland's overtime charge on delivery credits exceeding six months (briefly reported in last week's *Trade and Industry*) is designed to restrict the country's short-term indebtedness.

The importer has the right to make a contract on a delivery credit provided the time of the credit does not exceed 12 months. However, for the time exceeding six months (either based on a contract or otherwise) the importer is to pay an overtime charge to the Bank of Finland. The overtime charge is 10 per cent for the first calendar month during which the above six month time of credit is exceeded and a further 5 per cent per each month for the following four full calendar months counted of the unpaid amount of credit. Thus the maximum charge is 30 per cent of the unpaid credit.

The time of the credit is calculated to start from the day of importation as stipulated in the customs law.

A special advance Bank of Finland permission is still required in all cases for contracts on delivery credits exceeding 12 months and for the disposal of these credits.

The amendment came into force on 1 March 1976. On delivery credits which have exceeded the six months credit time mentioned at the enforcement of this decision the charge is payable only on unpaid credit as at 1 July 1976.

The decision does not however alter the credit ban imposed on imported goods appearing on the list of goods for which immediate payment is required.

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Price control. The Finnish Government's five-month price freeze (see *Trade and Industry*, 13 February 1976) came into effect on 13 February. The following items are exempt:

1 Milk, meat and their products
2 Export prices
3 Finnish shipping abroad
4 Insurance premiums
5 Salaries and wages
6 Shares stocks bonds etc.
7 Live animals
8 Produce of farming fishing and fur animal breeding normally sold by primary producers to retailers or processors.

The first item is still subject to price increase approval.

Indirect price increases in the form of reduced quantity or quality of goods or removal of discounts previously granted will not be allowed.

An extended price control will apply after the price freeze, from 1 July 1976 until the end of January 1977. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Further information

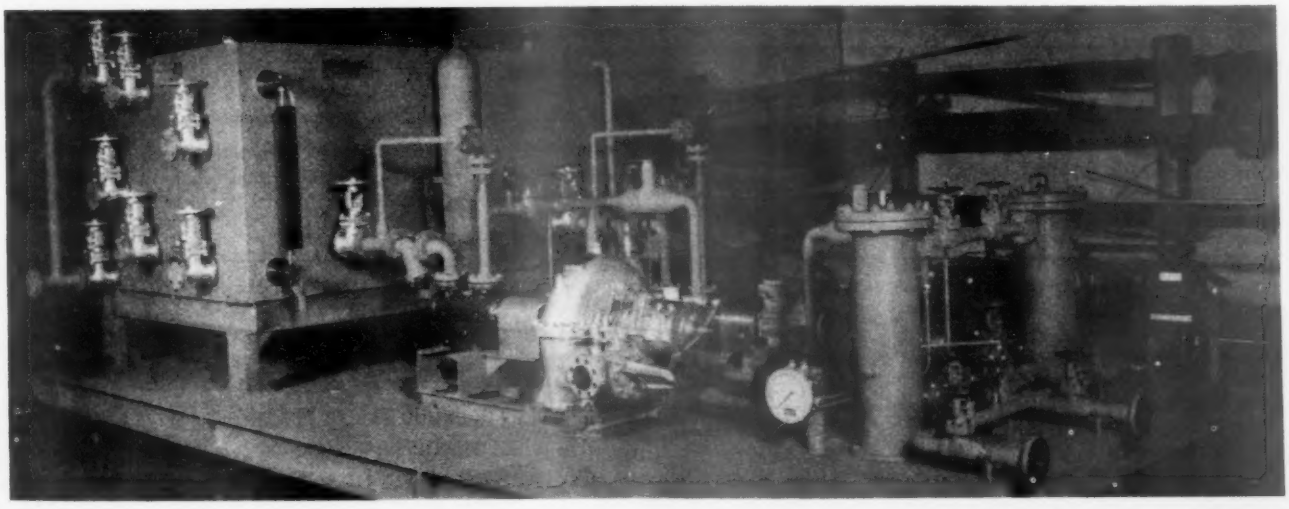
In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Austria

Reduction in tobacco tax on cigars. With effect from 1 January 1976 the Tobacco Tax on cigars (including cheroots and cigarillos) is reduced from 34 per cent to 13 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Oil console for Norway produced in 8 weeks

Oil console for Norway produced in record time . . . Centralube Ltd., London, designed, built and delivered this double-seal oil-circulating console to Mongstad refinery, Norway. The consoles lubricate double-seal arrangements on a pair of pumps transferring hot residue at 365°C. Delivery was initially 24 weeks but a serious fire at the refinery reduced this requirement to eight weeks overnight. Centralube, in co-operation with its clients Flexibox Ltd. (a Burmah Engineering company) reprogrammed all sub-orders and where necessary arranged alternative supplies. The eight week period included the Christmas and New Year holidays.



Spain

Customs tariff modifications. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 19 January 1976, announced modifications to the text of the Spanish Customs Tariff; new sub-headings are introduced as follows:

Tariff no.	Description	Import duty
29.14.A.1	Formic acids, its salts and esters:	
	a methyl formate	1%
	b Other	25.5%
29.44	Antibiotics:	
	A Antibiotics derived from 6-amino penicillanic acid:	
	1 Penicillin, ampicillin, metampicillin, pivampicillin, and their salts and esters	10.5%
	with a minimum of, per million units of penicilin or per gram of other antibiotics	3 pesetas
	2 Other	10.5%
	B Antibiotics derived from 7-amino cephalosporanic acid	10.5%
	C Antibiotics derived from 7-amino-dihydrocephalosporanic acid	10.5%
	D Streptomycin and its derivatives (dihydrostreptomycin), and their salts and esters	10.5%
	with a minimum, per gram, of	3 pesetas
	E Tetracycline (including terramycin and aureomycin) and their derivatives, salts and esters	10.5%
	with a minimum, per gram, of	3 pesetas
	F Chloramphenicol and its esters	10.5%
	with a minimum, per gram, of	3 pesetas
	G Erythromycin, and its salts and esters	10.5%
	with a minimum, per gram, of	3 pesetas
	H Phosphomycin and its salts and esters	10.5%
	with a minimum, per gram, of	14 pesetas
	I Other	10.5%
39.01.H	Liquid products of the polyaddition of alkylene oxides (as distinct from polyethyleneglycols), other than the products of polyaddition-polycondensation:	
	1 Having a hydroxyl number of 80 or less and a molecular weight of 2,500 or more	18%
	2 Other	18%

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Global quotas 1976: correction. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 3 February 1976, published a Resolution which amended quota No. 18 to include four of the above new sub-headings: ex 29.44.A.1, ex 29.44.D, ex 29.44.E and 29.44.F as well as ex 29.25.I, 29.44.A and 29.44.B. Opening of this quota for the first half of 1976 was published in *Trade and Industry*, 6 February 1976, page 391, Quota No. 74 has been amended in the *State Gazette*, 31 January 1976. Tariff heading ex 87.04.A and ex 87.05 are deleted, this leaves only ex 87.06. The value of the quota remains the same, at 321,534,891 pesetas, permanently open. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Yugoslavia

Imports for telephone exchanges. According to Yugoslav *Official Gazette* No. 61 of 30 December 1975, a global foreign exchange quota of 300 million dinars has been allocated to Yugoslav enterprises for importing of semi-manufactures and spares for inclusion in 13 transit telephone exchange centres. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

Syria

Agency registration. Information on the procedures for the registration of the agency of a foreign company in the Syrian Arab Republic has been compiled by the Damascus Chamber of Commerce. The regulations can be summed up as follows:

The agent should be Syrian and be resident in Syria. He should also have a Syrian commercial registration and be directly connected with the company.
The agency should be registered at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade and application for registration should be made within a month of opening the agency.

Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5576/3508.

Ghana

Entry permit regulations. *Trade and Industry*, 20 February (p. 522), gave details of the cedi voucher requirement which has been introduced by the Ghanaian Government. The Ghana High Commission in London has announced that the value of the vouchers to be bought is a fixed C50 plus a minimum C20 for each day's stay in Ghana. These vouchers may be bought on arrival in Ghana.

Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 3064/3331.

Mozambique

Expropriation of property. A copy of the translation of the decree law on expropriation of property has been received, and copies are available. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5794.

Zaire

Economic policy. The Government of Zaire has published a number of decrees concerning, inter alia, the Zairian economy and revised import policy. Copies of these documents, which are in French, are available for inspection. Further details may be obtained from OTAR 472/471/473/462.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 6/76, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 27 February 1976, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on the following:

1 Certain multifilament strands of glass fibre classifiable under tariff subheading 70.20.17 and 70.20.25.
2 Teats and soothers classifiable under tariff subheading 40.12.90, and
3 Epoxide resins classifiable under tariff subheading 39.01.50.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and In-

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OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

dustries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Bangladesh

Preferential rates of duty. The Ministry of Finance of the Government of Bangladesh has rescinded by Notification SRO 29-L/76/270/D/Cus of 20 January 1976, Notification SRO 84(R)/66 of 11 June 1966. This cancels the margins of preference applicable to a range of goods grown, produced or manufactured in the United Kingdom, the British colonies and Sri Lanka. The extent of the exemption ranged from 2 per cent to 10 per cent *ad valorem* on a wide spectrum of goods. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

Thailand

Textiles and thread: special import fee. The Thai Board of Investment has announced a special fee of 20 per cent of cif prices for six months from 24 December 1975 for imports of textiles and thread on the following tariff headings:

Tariff no.	Description
55.07 a	Fabrics made wholly of cotton
55.08 a	
55.09 b	
62.01 a	
62.02	Only for towels and handkerchiefs made of towel cloths
51.04	Fabrics made wholly of synthetic fibres
56.07	
60.01 b	
62.02	Only for towels and handerkchiefs made of towel cloths
51.04	Fabrics made of polyester synthetic fibres mixed with cotton
55.09 c	
56.07	
60.01 b	
62.02	Only for towels and handkerchiefs made of towel cloth
55.04	Threads made wholly of cotton
55.06	
56.05	Threads made wholly of synthetic fibres
56.06	

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 401/468/469.

JAPAN DISSATISFIED WITH THE LIMITED RESULTS ACHIEVED THROUGH AGENTS AND DISTRIBUTORS?

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Cables: Raydenco, TOKYO

Canada

Quebec Official Language Act – advertising, public signs and labelling regulations. Laws and regulations under Quebec's Official Language Act 1974 were published on 5 February 1976 covering the use of French in advertising, public signs and labelling.

In summary, the regulations provide that, in the Province of Quebec, all public signs, advertisements, catalogues and brochures, etc. must be in French or with a French version at least as prominent as any version in another language. The same applies to labels of products, directions and warranties. The requirements for public signs and advertisements will apply from 5 February 1976 except that firms may, up to 1 January 1978, utilise catalogues, brochures or other like publications published prior to 1 July 1976, even if these are presented in one language only, other than French.

The effective date for the labelling of food products, other than alcoholic beverages, is 1 July 1976. For all other products, including alcoholic beverages it is 1 January 1978. The principal exceptions to the labelling regulations are:

1 Firm's names of which no French version exists.
2 Addresses which are outside Quebec.
3 Registered trade marks.
4 Words and expressions for which there is no acceptable French equivalent.
5 Proper names.
6 Names of regions outside Quebec designating a product originating there.
7 Labels, warranties and directions of games played only in a language other than French.
8 Labels, warranties and directions on products which are in very limited use.
9 Labels, warranties and directions supplied with products intended for sale outside Quebec.
10 Labels and directions supplied with products not yet sold in Quebec which are exhibited at conventions, exhibitions or fairs.
11 Labels and directions supplied with industrial products shipped in large quantities and intended to be incorporated in a finished product or to be used in manufacturing or processing operations.*
12 Labels and directions supplied with fresh fruit and vegetables shipped in large quantities.*
13 Labels and directions on publications, records and tape recordings presented in the language of such products.
14 Labels attached to the container of a product used for medical, pharmaceutical and scientific purposes when:
   a the capacity of the container is less than 5 ml or the contents weigh less than 100 grammes and
   b the information on the label, in a language other than French, is presented at least in French on a box in which the container is placed or in directions supplied therewith.
15 Expressions in international usage such as 'made in' or 'printed in' and followed by the name of the country of origin, as well as 'patented' and other like terms.

* The exceptions listed in paragraphs 11 and 12 above do not apply when the product is identified as a unit or offered for retail sale.

The word 'label' does not include containers whose volume is more than 5 cubic metres in which products are shipped in large quantities, nor does it include inscriptions, engraved, baked or inlaid on the product itself.

Exceptions to the regulations governing signs and advertisements include non-commercial messages of various types; advertisements concerning radio and television programmes, speeches, publications, shows, records or tape recorders, games, scientific, social, economic, sports, cultural or religious events; firms' names, addresses outside Quebec, trade marks, proper names and words for which no French equivalent is acceptable. Advertisements disseminated by means of catalogues, brochures or other like publications offered in a public place may be presented entirely in only one language, other than

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

French, provided that the same messages are simultaneously offered in French in a publication of the same kind and quality, or sent to persons who have requested in writing that these messages be sent to them in that language.

Details are available from OTAR ext. 455,/456/457.

Cyanoacrylate adhesives: packaging regulations. The Canadian Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs announced on 6 February that cyanoacrylate adhesives will need to be retailed in child resistant packaging and carry special cautionary label statements. These regulations, promulgated under the Hazardous Products Act, will take effect at the retail level on 1 September 1976. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 455/456/457.

United States

Slide fasteners (zippers): Escape Clause investigation. The International Trade Commission has split evenly in its finding on the Escape Clause investigation on slide fasteners (zippers). The President may now consider either position as the official finding of the Commission. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5629.

Food, drug and cosmetic labelling. The *Federal Register* dated 19 January 1976 published a proposal to amend the regulations concerning the area of principal display panel for food, drug and cosmetic labelling in package form. All labelling to comply from 1 January 1978.

Comments (five copies) before 19 April 1976, should be addressed to Hearing Clerk, Food and Drugs Administration, Room 4-65, 5600 Fisher Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

A copy of the text is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 456/457/7312.

Jamaica

Air conditioning units: import licences revoked. By Notice 2,952, the Jamaican authorities revoked all import licences and import quotas for air conditioning units (window types) on 6 February 1976. It was possible to seek revalidation of licences up to 9 February 1976 on the grounds of irrevocable commitment to importation. A copy of the notice is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Bolivia

Products for agricultural use: temporary duty exoneration. With the object of stimulating the development of the agricultural sector, the Bolivian Government has issued supreme decree 13,129, of 4 December 1975, which exonerates, temporarily, from the payment of customs duties and internal and municipal taxes the following tariff numbers:

07.05.01.00	10.02.01.00	10.03.01.00	10.04.01.00	10.05.01.00	10.06.01.00
10.07.01.00	12.01.01.00	12.03.01.00	12.03.02.00	12.03.03.00	12.03.04.00
28.38.01.10	29.31.03.01	29.31.03.02	29.31.89.11	30.02.02.00	30.02.89.01
30.02.89.02	30.03.03.01	30.03.04.01	31.01.00.00	31.03.01.00	31.03.02.00
31.03.03.00	31.03.04.00	31.04.01.00	31.04.02.00	31.04.03.00	31.04.04.00
31.04.05.00	31.04.06.00	31.05.01.00	38.11.02.00	38.11.89.00	82.01.01.01
82.01.01.02	82.01.01.03	82.01.01.04	82.01.01.99	82.01.02.01	82.01.02.02
82.01.02.03	82.01.02.99	84.21.01.05	84.24.01.01	84.24.01.11	84.24.01.99
84.24.89.00	84.24.90.01	84.24.90.02	84.24.90.09	84.24.90.99	84.25.04.00
84.25.05.01	84.25.05.02	84.25.05.99	84.27.01.00	84.27.90.00	84.28.01.01
84.28.01.02	84.28.01.03	84.28.01.04	84.28.01.99	84.28.02.01	84.28.02.02
84.28.02.03	84.28.02.99	84.28.03.00	84.28.90.00	84.47.02.99	

These products will still be liable to the payment of the 1 per cent Development of the North-West Tax, the 2 per cent Services Rendered Tax and to the prior licensing and phytosanitary certification requirements, where applicable.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Brazil

Proposed duty increases. Customs Policy Council Editals Nos. 796-802, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial* have made public that the Council was considering the following proposed increases in import duty.

Per cent

Tariff no.	Goods	Duty rate Current	Proposed
Edital No. 796 (*Diario Oficial*, 28.11.75)			
73.02.13.00	Ferro-tungsten	15	20
Edital No. 797 (*Diario Oficial*, 28.11.75)			
73.02.14.00	Ferro-vanadium	15	35
Edital No. 798 (*Diario Oficial*, 28.11.75)			
73.02.06.00	Ferro-molybdenum	15	25
Edital No. 799 (*Diario Oficial*, 28.11.75)			
87.06.20.00	Crawler tracks	35	45
Edital No. 800 (*Diario Oficial*, 15.12.75)			
28.56.05.00	Silicon carbide (carborundum):		
28.56.05.01	Granulated up to 220 mesh or finer	20	45
	'ex' of a green colour	—	20
28.56.05.99	Other:		
	'ex' of a black colour raw, not having a granulometric classification	—	45
Edital No. 801 (*Diario Oficial*, 15.12.75)			
84.22.14.00	Belt conveyors	45	75
Edital No. 802 (*Diario Oficial*, 30.12.75)			
29.44.99.00	Gentamycin sulphate	15	45

There is no further information at present. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Government Publications in the North

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Brazennose Street, Manchester M60 8AS

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries inc. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,472	9,380	2,130	2,090							
Series in						£ million				£ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	450	325	68	−30	735	−12	747
1971	102	103	102	93	104	70	−148	52	−10	1,048	282	766
1972	104	109	104	82	117	−5	−175	48	−11	128	−690	818
1973	110	114	107	88	125	960	396	102	334	−835	−2,295	1,460
1974	110	114	105	98	113	553	666	81	−68	−3,666	−5,232	1,566
1975		113 p		84 p	98 p		−337 p	−83 p	6 p	−1,708	−3,232	1,524
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	109	86	130	353	166	37	51	−131	−335	204
2nd qtr.	109	113	104	83	118	274	88	3	185	−77	−402	325
3rd qtr.	110	115	107	92	120	155	46	29	47	−250	−616	366
4th qtr	109	115	107	89	132	178	96	32	51	−377	−942	565
1974 1st qtr	106	113	108	97	112	−174	−31	18	−59	−853	−1,280	427
2nd qtr.	110	112	100	96	110	274	191	43	27	−971	−1,359	388
3rd qtr.	112	114	103	97	119	359	368	3	−14	−873	−1,249	376
4th qtr.	111	115	107	101	113	94	139	17	−22	−969	−1,344	375
1975 1st qtr.	110	116	105	93	102	−171	−4	−31	−57	−413	−848	435
2nd qtr.	107	114	103	87	100	−288	−112	−54	−52	−340	−681	341
3rd qtr.	107	112	107	82	102	−157	−204	−29	60	−598	−986	388
4th qtr.		112 p		78 p	89 p		−18 p	32 p	55 p	−357	−717	360 **
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−3.0	−2.2	−1.2	−10.8	−5.7							
on a year earlier	−3.6	−2.1	+3.5	−19.7	−17.9							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Trade	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales*	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
				monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972					
£m in base year			15,895											
Series in				thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million at current prices	
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	8,810	8,528
1972	102.6	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	9,140	9,830
1973	110.3	110.9	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	11,771	14,066
1974	106.3	107.8	109.9	102.8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	600.3ø	2.6ø	301.6ø	15,888	21,120
1975	101.5	101.7	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.3 p	188.7 p	179.8	929.0	4.0	148.2ø	18,775	22,007
1974 1st qtr.	104.4	106.5	109.6	102	101.4	12.9	212.5	138.3	125.0	572.9	2.5	288.6	3,480	4,760
2nd qtr.	107.9	109.4	107.8	105	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	579.4	2.5	314.5	4,005	5,364
3rd qtr.	108.3	109.6	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	621.2	2.7	310.3	4,220	5,469
4th qtr.	104.8	105.7	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	4,183	5,527
1975 1st qtr.	104.8	106.1	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	733.3	3.2	..	4,527	5,375
2nd qtr.	100.2	100.4	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	849.7	3.6	159.9	4,475	5,156
3rd qtr.	100.0	100.1	105.5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.4	1008.5	4.3	135.3	4,645	5,631
4th qtr.	101.2	100.7	105.8	85	144.2	25.3	255.4 p	199.1 p	193.7	1125.9	4.8	119.4	5,128	5,845
1975 Jan.	105.5	107.7	112.8	117	119.9	19.9	222.1	173.0	159.8	709.0e	3.0 e	..	1,507	1,911
Feb.	105.2	106.9	111.6	109	121.9	19.9	218.8	175.9	162.0	736.7	3.2	196.3	1,479	1,811
Mar.	103.6	103.8	109.5	97	124.3	21.2	221.9	179.2	169.0	754.1	3.2	189.7	1,541	1,653
Apr.	101.5	101.7	120.0	95	129.1	21 7	222.9	182.5	170.1	794.3	3.4	176.6	1,378	1,728
May	99.4	99.4	103.7	95	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	853.5	3.7	158.6	1,609	1,692
June	99.7	100.0	104.1	91	137.1	26 1	227.7	189.0	182.6	901.4	3.9	144.4	1,488	1,736
July	100 6	100.9	105.4	91	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.8	976.5	4.2	131.7	1,574	1,950
Aug.	98.8	98.9	104.8	98	139.3	26.9	241.4	193.5	185.5	1008.8	4.3	136.7	1,489	1,890
Sept.	100 5	100.5	106.1	120	140.5	26.6	243.2	194.9	186.0	1040.1	4.5	137.4	1,582	1,791
Oct.	101.5	101.2	104.8	85	142.5	25.9	251.7 p	197.0	187.4	1088.5	4.7	126.2	1,732	1,955
Nov.	101.5	101.1	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.2 p	198.9	195.6	1125.3	4.8	117.3	1,641	1,926
Dec.	100.6	99.8	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	258.4 p	201.5 p	198.2	1163.2	5.0	114.8	1,755	1,964
1976 Jan.			109 p	115	147.3	23.4	260.4 p	204.9 p	201.6 p	1210.5	5.2††	111.1	1,785 p	1,964 p
Feb.										1232.5 p	5.3††	113.5 p		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.2	+0.6	+1.7	−6.9	+3.7		+5.3	+3.4	+6.5	..		..	ø8	+4
on a year earlier	−3.4	−4.7	−4.3	−8.4	+24.5		+15.9	+19.8	+26.2	..		..	+20	+4

p Provisional * After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available
ø Average of 11 months e Figure is estimate ** Figure is projection
†† January and February 1976 labour figures are adjusted on 1975 data: figures for earlier periods on the same basis will be published on 1 April.

Survey of short-term export prospects

This summary presents the results of the second survey of short-term export prospects carried out by the Department of Trade among the United Kingdom's 75 top exporting companies. The results of the first survey, covering the period from the third quarter of 1975 to the second quarter of 1976, were published in *Trade and Industry* on 19 December 1975.

In the latest survey the period covered was the fourth quarter of 1975 to the third quarter of 1976. Returns were received from 64 companies and covered just over one-third of the total value of UK exports, compared with 69 companies and about two-fifths of exports in the first survey.

As before, the questionnaire asked for the actual value of firms' export deliveries in the fourth quarter of 1975 and forecasts for the subsequent three quarters; the percentage change these values represented over the same quarter a year earlier; and how this change was divided between movements in prices and in volume.

The results from totalling the figures received from the 64 companies are shown in Table 1. The main features are:

1 The value of exports of responding firms grew less rapidly between Q4 1974 and Q4 1975 than did total UK exports. This pattern was also a feature of the previous survey in respect of Q3 1975.

2 This smaller increase again mainly reflected a less marked rise in prices. The movements in the volume of exports for the companies in the survey have been similar to those for exports as a whole; both showed a sharp upturn in the final quarter of 1975.

3 The forecasts suggest that the volume of exports will continue to increase quite strongly during the next three quarters. For the first half of 1976 the expectation is for a rise of some 6 per cent on a year earlier, increasing to about 10 per cent in the third quarter; (the comparison for this latter quarter is with the lowest point of the recession last year). Averaging the figures for the three quarters gives a growth of 7 per cent above the corresponding period of 1975.

4 Little change is foreseen by the companies in the rate of increase in their export prices (in sterling terms); on average they show an annual rate of increase of 13 per cent for the forecast period.

5 Taking volume and price movement together, the value of exports is expected to be some 20 per cent higher in the first half of 1976 compared with a year earlier and rather more than this in the third quarter.

It is still too early to assess the effect of biases which may be inherently present in a survey of this sort – either in the companies' forecasts or in their representativeness for exports as a whole – and the results must continue to be treated with caution. However the fact that the results of two surveys are now available does enable some comparisons to be made. These are given in Table 2 and show the following features:

1 The forecast for the recovery in the volume of exports in Q4 1975 obtained from the first survey was not far from the actual outturn for exports as a whole; if allowance is made for the exceptionally high exports of precious stones (which are not covered in the survey) during the quarter the correspondence is very close.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	• fifty-three week
p provisional	period

2 In total the companies reported very little difference in the outcome for Q4 1975 from what they had forecast in the first survey.

3 The forecasts for the first half of 1976 also show relatively little alteration between the two surveys. A slightly faster expected growth in the volume of exports is partly offset by a fractional downward revision to expectations of price rises. Much even of these small changes is due to the different response rate to the second survey rather than to alterations in the individual company forecasts, which have remained very stable.

In summary, whilst the results of the survey must continue to be treated with caution, they point to a period of fairly strong advance which could bring the volume of exports back by the autumn of 1976 to around the previous peak level of mid-1974.

TABLE 1 Movement in UK exports between Q4 1975 and Q3 1976 by value, volume and price

	Recorded UK exports (a)	Second survey results for major exporters (b)			
	1975	1975	1976		
	4th qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.
VALUE					
£ million	5,593	1,773	1,884	1,973	1,923
% increase on a year earlier	24 (c)	14½	20	20½	24
VOLUME					
% increase on a year earlier	3 (c)	½	6	6½	10
PRICE					
% increase on a year earlier	20	14	13	13½	13

(a) Source: Overseas Trade Statistics.
(b) Aggregated from returns received from 64 companies.
(c) If exports of precious stones, which were exceptionally high in 4th quarter 1975, are excluded, the figures became 20% and 0% respectively.

TABLE 2 Comparison of first and second surveys

	1975 4th qtr.			1976 1st qtr.		1976 2nd qtr.	
	Re.-corded	S1	S2	S1	S2	S1	S2
VALUE							
£ million	5,593	1,950	1,773	2,021	1,884	2,071	1,973
% increase on a year earlier	24	14	14½	19	20	17	20½
VOLUME							
% increase on a year earlier	3	½	½	4	6	3	6½
PRICE							
% increase on a year earlier	20	13	14	15	13	14	13½

S1 = First Survey, October 1975. Returns from 69 companies.
S2 = Second Survey, January 1976. Returns from 64 companies.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Regional Development Grant payments

Companies which have received one or more payments of regional development grant of over £25,000 in the quarter ended 31 December 1975 are shown below. The table is drawn up on a regional basis according to the locations of the premises in respect of which the grants were paid. The amounts shown against each premises are in some cases individual payments and in some cases the total of a number of separate payments each individually exceeding £25,000. (Lists of payments made in previous quarters appeared in *Trade and Industry*, 5 September and 19 September 1975, and 30 January and 20 February 1976).

Name of company	Place of premises	Grant (£'000)
SOUTHWEST REGION		
AMP of Great Britain Ltd.	Bideford	28
Cornwall Tin and Mining Ltd.	Truro	94
ECC Quarries Ltd.	Launceston	35
Sir Alfred McAlpine and Son Ltd.	Launceston	40
Stafford Miller Ltd.	Plymouth	27
Western Excavating (ECC) Ltd.	St. Austell	121
West Pharmarubber Ltd.	St. Austell	26
WEST MIDLANDS		
Simplex – GE Manufacturing Ltd.	Stoke-on-Trent	42
EAST MIDLANDS		
Sonneborn and Rieck Ltd.	Chesterfield	41
YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE		
Associated Dairies Ltd.	Wakefield	31
British Steel Corporation	Rotherham	178
British Steel Corporation	Scunthorpe	1,046
British Steel Corporation	Sheffield	213
Bunzl Adhesive Materials Ltd.	Scarborough	33
Cadbury Schweppes Foods Ltd.	Catterickbridge	30
Capper Pass Ltd.	North Ferriby	34
CCL Systems Ltd.	Leeds	36
Champion Assoc. Weavers Ltd.	Bradford	28
Daniel Doncaster and Sons Ltd.	Leeds	35
Henry Williamson Ltd.	Brough	38
Holbrook Precision Castings Ltd.	Sheffield	26
Home and Overseas Wallpapers Mftrs. Ltd.	Doncaster	32
Howarth (Timber Importers) Ltd.	Hull	38
J. E. Mather and Sons. Ltd.	Leeds	27
J. Lyons and Co. Ltd.	Carlton, Barnsley	78
Johnson and Johnson Ltd.	Gargrave, Skipton	54
John Waddington Ltd.	Leeds	31
Kirkless Chemicals Ltd.	Batley	25
McCain International Ltd.	Scarborough	37
Marston Radiators Ltd.	Shipley	78
Noxell Corporation	Wakefield	70
Prosper De Mulder	Doncaster	48
Reckitt and Sons Ltd.	Hull	195
Rockware Glass Ltd.	Knottingley	111
Rugby Portland Cement Co. Ltd.	Barton-on-Humber	32
Rust Craft Greeting Cards (UK) Ltd.	Dewsbury	34
Skingley (Cranes) Ltd.	*'S'	44
Square Grip Ltd.	Barnsley	35
Thomas Burnley and Sons Ltd.	Cleckheaton	62
Yorkshire Chemicals Ltd.	Leeds	26
NORTH WEST		
Albright and Wilson Ltd.	Widnes	114
Armour Hess Chemicals Ltd.	Rochdale	26
Associated Biscuits Ltd.	Liverpool	38
Associated Octel Co. (Plant) Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	111
BICC Ltd.	Helsby	30
British Aircraft Corporation Ltd.	Preston	96
British American Tobacco Co. Ltd.	Liverpool	91
British Leyland UK Ltd.	Leyland	28
British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.	Chester	150
British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.	Preston	31
British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.	Risley	26
British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Co. Ltd.	Birkenhead	196
British Sidac Ltd.	St. Helens	73
Bush Boake Allen Ltd.	Widnes	38
Cabot Carbon Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	36
Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd.	Birkenhead	104
Ciba-Giegy (UK) Ltd.	Manchester	88
Cigarette Components Ltd.	Burnley	51
Continental (London) Ltd.	Seaforth	112
Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.	Crewe	121
Courtaulds Ltd.	Aintree	41
Crompton-Nettlefold Stenman Ltd.	Ashton-in-Makerfield	91
Dart Industries Ltd.	Wigan	37
Edgar Pickering (Blackburn) Ltd.	Blackburn	26
Electric Power Storage Ltd.	Bolton	124
Fieldhouse Estates Ltd.	Great Harwood	39
Fisons Ltd.	Widnes	32
Ford Motor Co. Ltd.	Halewood	586
General Mills Chemicals (UK) Ltd.	Hooton	30
Geo L. Scott and Co. Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	42
Golden Wonder Ltd.	Widnes	34
Granox Ltd.	Widnes	106
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Runcorn	2,143
Kellogg Co. of Great Britain Ltd.	Stretford	27
Kodak Ltd.	Kirkby	29
Lever Brothers Ltd.	Warrington	51
Manesty Machines Ltd.	Rochdale	31
Merseyside Food Products Ltd.	Liverpool	78
Milk Marketing Board	Buxton	47
Mirrlees Blackstone Ltd.	Stockport	48
National Coal Board	St. Helens	116
Pilkington Bros. Ltd.	St. Helens	72
Portakabin Ltd.	Littleborough	80
Ransome Hoffman Pollard Ltd.	Blackburn	61
Rockware Glass Ltd.	St. Helens	253
Samuel Heap and Son Ltd.	Rochdale	38
Shell Chemicals UK Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	253
Shell Research Ltd.	Ince, Chester	44
Shell UK Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	45
Skelmersdale Development Corporation	Skelmersdale	166
Sterling Stubbins Ltd.	Ramsbottom	55
Stone Manganese Marine Ltd.	Birkenhead	35
Swale Press Ltd.	Widnes	25
Transparent Paper Ltd.	Bury	34
Triplex Safety Glass Co. Ltd.	St. Helens	30
Turner and Newall Ltd.	Wigan	72
UML Ltd.	Bromborough	220
UML Ltd.	Port Sunlight	72
United Sterling Corporation Ltd.	Stalybridge	38
Urenco (UK) Partnership	Wirral	259
Wellcome Foundation Ltd.	Crewe	74
William Walker and Sons Ltd.	Bolton	26
YKK Fasteners (UK) Ltd.	Runcorn	100
Yorkshire Imperial Metals Ltd.	Kirkby	25
NORTHERN		
Albright and Wilson Ltd.	Whitehaven	328
Armstrong Cork Ltd.	Gateshead	62
Armstrong Cork Ltd.	Thornaby	160
Associated Co-operative Creameries Ltd.	Blaydon-on-Tyne	32
Birtley Manufacturing Ltd.	Newcastle upon Tyne	35
Bowater Scott Corporation Ltd.	Barrow-in-Furness	240
B. P. Trading Ltd.	Middlesbrough	909
Bridon Fibres and Plastics	Gateshead	39
British Chrome and Chemicals Ltd.	Stockton	68
British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.	Windscale	504
Bruntons Dairies Ltd.	Middlesbrough	25
British Steel Corporation	Consett	166
British Steel Corporation	Hartlepool	393
British Steel Corporation	Lackenby	42
British Steel Corporation	Middlesbrough	810
British Steel Corporation	Redcar	3,759
Carlisle Web Offset Ltd.	Carlisle	54
Cigarette Components Ltd.	Jarrow	137
Cleveland Bridge and Eng. Co Ltd.	Middlesbrough	31
Cumberland Fibres Ltd.	Stanley	70
Dunlop Ltd.	Cramlington	26
Ellay Enfield Tubes Ltd.	Washington	45
Exquisite Knitwear Ltd.	Ashington	78
Exquisite Knitwear Ltd.	Cramlington	43
Formica Ltd.	North Shields	36
G. D. Searle and Co. Ltd.	Morpeth	68
Glaxo Laboratories Ltd.	Ulverston	321
Glaxo Properties Ltd.	Ulverston	154
Greenham (Plant Hire) Ltd.	*'S'	34
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Billingham	1,898
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Middlesbrough	1,688
Imperial Group Ltd.	Newcastle upon Tyne	31
Ingersoll Rand Co. Ltd.	Gateshead	36
Irving Ainsworth (Holdings) Ltd.	Morley	32
Jackson Plant	*'S'	28
James Cropper and Co. Ltd.	Kendal	32
J. Lyons and Co. Ltd.	Eaglescliffe	28
Kier Ltd.	*'S'	49
Kimberley-Clarke Ltd.	Northumberland	33
Lamp Metals Ltd.	Gateshead	25
Lloyds Leasing Ltd.	Gateshead	48
Lloyds Leasing Ltd.	Sunderland	54
Mattessons Meats Ltd.	Durham	35
Mercantile Leasing Co. Ltd.	Saltburn by the Sea	90
Merck Sharp and Dohne Ltd.	Cramlington	125
Merriman Meighan Ltd.	*'S'	35
Milk Marketing Board	Durham	119
M. M. Sales (Plant Hire) Ltd.	*'S'	32
Mono Containers (UK) Ltd.	Durham	36
Monsanto Ltd.	Middlesbrough	694
Mullard Ltd.	Durham	72
National Coal Board	Blackhall	94
National Coal Board	Blyth	27
National Coal Board	Boldon	64
National Coal Board	Hartlepool	32
National Coal Board	Peterlee	88
National Coal Board	Seaham	48
National Coal Board	South Shields	183
National Coal Board	Sunderland	59
Newalls Insulation Co. Ltd.	Washington	32
Norflex Ltd.	Cramlington	35
Norpipe Petroleum (UK) Ltd.	Middlesbrough	3,427
Norsea Pipelines Ltd.	Middlesbrough	579
Northern Clubs Federation Brewery Ltd.	Gateshead	145
NSK Bearings Europe Ltd.	Peterlee	294
Polyamide Intermediates Ltd.	Middlesbrough	177
Polypac (Hartlepool) Ltd.	Hartlepool	30
Portland and Sunderland Newspapers Ltd.	Sunderland	52
Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers Ltd.	Sunderland	44
Rigging International Europe Ltd.	Middlesbrough	96
Royal Ordnance Factory	Birtley	40
Scottish and Newcastle Breweries Ltd.	Newcastle upon Tyne	128
Shell (UK) Ltd.	Middlesbrough	157
Shell (UK) Ltd.	Teesport	29
Shephard Hill and Co. Ltd.	Maryport	222
Shirland Fireclay Ltd.	Barnard Castle	42
Sidex Ltd.	Wigton	120

Name of company	Place of premises	Grant (£'000)
Spicers Stationery Ltd.	Washington	45
Steetley (Mfg) Ltd.	Ferry Hill	76
Sterling Winthrop Group Ltd.	Cramlington	30
Sunderland Shipbuilders Ltd.	Sunderland	133
Swan Hunter Shipbuilders Ltd.	Hebburn-on-Tyne	85
Thomas De La Rue and Co. Ltd.	Gateshead	49
Thorn Heating Ltd.	Gateshead	49
Timex Corporation	Washington	64
T. J. Thompson and Son	Stockton-on-Tees	40
Torrington Co Ltd.	Darlington	26
Triphos (Northern) Ltd.	Hartlepool	176
Tube Products Ltd.	Washington	27
Tyne Tees Tunnelling	Frosterley	288
United International Bank Ltd.	Middlesbrough	66
Vaux Breweries Ltd.	Sunderland	51
Welwyn Electric Ltd.	Bedlington	81
WALES		
A. B. Electronic Components Ltd.	Abercynon	35
Aberthaw and Bristol Channel Portland Cement Co. Ltd.	East Aberthaw	34
Alcan Booth Industries Ltd.	Newport	27
Alcoa Manufacturing (GB) Ltd.	Swansea	769
Aluminium Wire and Cable Co. Ltd.	Swansea	43
Amoco (UK) Ltd.	Milford Haven	382
BICC Ltd.	Isycoed, Clwyd	49
Borg-Warner Ltd.	Margam, Port Talbot	81
British Leyland UK Ltd.	Llanelli	150
British Steel Corporation	Deeside, Clwyd	277
British Steel Corporation	Ebbw Vale	710
British Steel Corporation	Llanelli	32
British Steel Corporation	Newport	83
British Steel Corporation	Pontypool	116
British Steel Corporation	Port Talbot	607
British Tissues Ltd.	Llangynwyd	49
Brymbo Steel Works Ltd.	Cardiff	596
Burroughs Machines Ltd.	Pentwyn, Cardiff	60
Cawoods Road Materials Ltd.	Llanferres Mold	42
Component Industries Ltd.	Glanamman	29
Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.	Llandyrnog	127
Crimpfil Ltd.	Bargoed	38
Dow Corning Ltd.	Barry	43
Dunlop Ltd.	Wrexham	28
Fibreglass Ltd.	Wrexham	78
Firestone Tyre and Rubber Co. Ltd.	Wrexham	146
Fram Europe Ltd.	Pontyclun	29
George Wimpey and Co Ltd.	Glyneath	181
GKN (South Wales)Ltd.	Cardiff	900
Gulf Oil Refining Ltd.	Milford Haven	256
Hoover Ltd.	Merthyr Tydfil	112
Ina Bearing Co Ltd.	Bynea, Llanelli	46
International Nickel Ltd.	Swansea	44
Milk Marketing Board	Marchwiel	177
National Coal Board	Bedwas	28
National Coal Board	Cowbridge	45
National Coal Board	Cwmgwrach	54
National Coal Board	Maerdy-Rhondda	85
National Coal Board	Oakdale-Mon.	63
National Coal Board	Penrhiwceiber	55
National Coal Board	Rhydyfro	38
Natural Gas Tubes Ltd.	Tredegar	51
Norsk Hydro (UK) Ltd.	Bedwas	30
Octel Associates	Amlwch	101
Plastic Engineers Ltd.	Pontypridd	31
Royal Worcester Industrial Ceramics Ltd.	Tonyrefail	26
Severn Valley Press Ltd.	Caerphilly	69
Shell UK Ltd.	Amlwch	267
Star Wrought Products Ltd.	Neath	94
Texaco Ltd.	Pembroke	109
Tredomen Engineering Ltd.	Hengoed	28
Tudor Accessories Ltd.	Ystrad Mynach	25
Winstones Rollers Ltd.	Ebbw Vale	27
Wm. Adams and Co. (Newport) Ltd.	Risca	30
Wotton Roadstone Ltd.	Neath	35
3M (United Kingdom) Ltd.	Swansea	29
SCOTLAND		
Aberdeen and District Milk Marketing Board	Aberdeen	33
Alginate Industries Ltd.	Girvan	50
Alliance Box Co. (Scotland) Ltd.	Glasgow	48
Alpine Soft Drinks (Scotland) Ltd.	Glasgow	32
Arthur Bell and Sons Ltd.	Dunfermline	60
Associated Portland Cement Mfg. Ltd.	Dunbar	51
Atlas Panel Products Ltd.	Glenrothes	54
A. Tulloch and Sons Ltd.	*'S'	31
Babcock and Wilcox (Plant Leasing) Ltd.	Dunbarton	35
Babcock and Wilcox (Plant Leasing) Ltd.	Renfrew	62
Barclays Export and Finance Co. Ltd.	Grangemouth	179
Bass Ltd. (Tennent Caledonian Breweries) Ltd.	Glasgow	65
Beecham Phamaceuticals UK Division	Irvine	236
Boots Co. Ltd.	Airdrie	40
Borg Warner Chemicals	Grangemouth	214
Bowater Packaging Ltd.	Glasgow	32
Bowater Packaging Ltd.	Milngavie	51
British Leyland UK Ltd.	Glasgow	40
British Railways Board	*'S'	81
British Steel Corporation	Airdrie	194
British Steel Corporation	Cambuslang	93
British Steel Corporation	Glasgow	101
British Steel Corporation	Motherwell	3,295
Brown and Root Wimpey	Tain	134
Brown and Root-Wimpey (Highland Fabricators) Ltd.	Tain	511
Cape Industries Ltd.	Stirling	48
Capital Leasing Ltd.	Dundee	104
Carron Company	Falkirk	108
Caterpillar Tractor Co. Ltd.	Uddingston	46
Cessna Fluid Power Ltd.	Glenrothes	37
Chivas Brothers Ltd.	Clydebank	71
Ciba-Geigy (UK) Ltd.	Paisley	117
Clarke Chapman Ltd.	Glasgow	122
Coatbridge Steelstock Ltd.	Coatbridge	29
Consolidated Pneumatic Tool Co. Ltd.	Aberdeen	56
CPC (United Kingdom) Ltd.	Paisley	42
Cumbernauld Development Corporation	Cumbernauld	28
Cunninghame District Council	Irvine	32
Davidson Radcliffe Ltd.	Aberdeen	51
D. C. Thompson and Co. Ltd.	Dundee	26
Del Monte Kitchens Ltd.	Bellshill	149
Distillers Co. (Bottling Services) Ltd.	Leven	113
Donside Paper Co. Ltd.	Aberdeen	126
Drybrough and Co. Ltd.	Edinburgh	25
Duraplex Industries Ltd.	Edinburgh	39
Edinview Properties Ltd.	*'S'	25
Edmund Leon Ltd.	Haddington	25
English Sewing Ltd.	Glasgow	40
Ethicon Ltd.	Edinburgh	55
Falkirk District Council	Bo'ness	91
FMC Corporation (UK) Ltd.	Dunfermline	30
Foster Wheeler Power Products Ltd.	Dumbarton	162
Frigoscandia Ltd.	Bellshill	57
Gateway Plant Ltd.	*'S'	41
General Motors Scotland Ltd.	Peterhead	62
George M. Whiley Ltd.	Livingston	26
George Wimpey and Co. Ltd.	*'S'	159
Glacier Metal Co. Ltd.	Kilmarnock	28
Glaxo Laboratories Ltd.	Montrose	141
Govan Shipbuilders Ltd.	Glasgow	181
Green and Connor (Scotland) Ltd.	*'S'	26
Hambros Bank Ltd.	Forgue	61
Hamstead Plant Hire Co. Ltd.	*'S'	30
Hillhouse Estates Ltd.	Troon	51
Hiram Walker and Sons (Scotland) Ltd.	Dumbarton	67
H. J. Atlas Management (International)Ltd.	Glenrothes	34
Howard Doris Ltd.	Kyleakin	126
Howard Doris Ltd.	Loch Kishorn	534
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Dumfries	143
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Stevenston	257
Imperial Group	Stevenston	147
International Distillers and Vintners Ltd.	Mulben	87
Inveresk Paper Co. Ltd.	Denny	50
Ireland and Fermac Ltd.	Mossend	38
Irvine Board Processors Ltd.	Irvine	25
J. and J. Crombie Ltd.	Aberdeen	33
JBE Offshore Ltd.	Clydebank	129
J. H. Carruthers and Co. Ltd.	East Kilbride	86
J. H. Fenner and Co. Ltd.	Cummock	69
John Walker and Sons Ltd.	Glasgow	351
Kockum Industries Ltd.	*'S'	34
Lewis Offshore Ltd.	Aberdeen	98
Lewis Offshore Ltd.	Stornoway	57
Lilley Plant Ltd.	*'S'	85
Martins (Dundyvan) Ltd.	Coatbridge	27
Michelin Tyre Co. Ltd.	Aberdeen	41
Michelin Tyre Co. Ltd.	Dundee	182
Moray Firth Maltings Ltd.	Inverness	42
Motherwell Bridge Plant Ltd.	*'S'	33
National Coal Board	Alloa	27
National Coal Board	Coatbridge	30
National Coal Board	Glasgow	46
National Coal Board	Kirkcaldy	235
National Coal Board	Loanhead	34
National Coal Board	Ochiltree	75
National Coal Board	*'S'	850
Nobels Explosives Co. Ltd.	Stevenston	28
North West Securities Ltd.	Dumbarton	53
Plessey Components Ltd.	Bathgate	204
Raynesway Plant Ltd.	*'S'	25
Rockware Glass Ltd.	Irvine	46
Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd.	Glasgow	267
Ronald D. Gordon	Nairn	34
Scottish Brick Co. Ltd.	Bishopbriggs	58
Scottish Grain Distillers Ltd.	Glasgow	306
Scottish Malt Distillers Ltd.	Alness	35
Scottish Malt Distillers Ltd.	Elgin	115
Scottish Malt Distillers Ltd.	Montrose	134
Scottish Meat Producers Ltd.	Bathgate	33
Singer Co. (UK) Ltd.	Clydebank	28
Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons Ltd.	Toward	130
Sparrows Heavy Crawler Cranes Ltd.	*'S'	100
Tay Textiles Ltd.	Dundee	32
Tay Textiles Ltd.	Perth	38
Tilling Construction Services Ltd.	Bowling	54
Tilling Construction Services Ltd.	Caldercruix	30
Tractor Shovels (Contracts) Ltd.	*'S'	72
UG Glass Containers Ltd.	Alloa	318
Union Cold Storage Co. Ltd.	Glenrothes	250
Uniroyal Ltd.	Dumfries	32
Wiggins Teape Ltd.	Aberdeen	29
William Collins Sons and Co. Ltd.	Bishopbriggs	230
William Hollins	Glasgow	38
William Tawse Ltd.	*'S'	80
Yarrow (Shipbuilders) Ltd.	Glasgow	121

NOTES:

1 * Indicates use in more than one premises or site in a development area.

2 Total of payments listed above £55.1 million (for the quarter ending 30 September 1975 the comparable total was £42.8 million.)

3 Total regional development grant paid in the quarter £89.8 million (for the quarter ending 30 September 1975 the total was £74.8 million).

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New companies registered

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during January 1976 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	2,161	—	2,161
Over £100 but under £1,000	63	—	63
£1,000 but under £10,0000	793	—	793
£10,000 but under £50,000	350	—	350
£50,000 but under £100,000	49	—	49
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	57	—	57
£1,000,000 and over	3	—	3
Total number	3,476	—	3,476
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.
Total number of nominal capital	21,780	—	21,780

Companies registered in Great Britain in 1975 and 1976

	1975		1976	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.
January	3,648	18,631	3,476	21,780
February	3,442	22,886		
March	3,472	22,419		
April	4,944	24,352		
May	4,245	42,314		
June	3,465	20,856		
July	3,752	26,703		
August	3,267	47,668		
September	3,781	32,241		
October	3,879	25,224		
November	3,739	35,028		
December	3,450	27,881		
Total	45,090	346,203		

Index of retail sales in Northern Ireland in December 1975

The seasonally adjusted index of the value of retail sales in Northern Ireland for December was 235 (1965 = 100), 20 per cent more than in December 1974. In the fourth quarter of 1975 the value of sales increased by 23 per cent compared with the corresponding period in the previous year.

The total value of sales in 1975 was 23 per cent higher than in the previous year, compared with the 15 per cent rise between 1973 and 1974.

After allowing for price changes, the total volume of sales decreased by about 1 per cent between 1974 and 1975.

The seasonally adjusted index numbers of the value of sales in December and the fourth quarter of 1975 and the percentage increases on a year earlier for the main groups of traders are shown below. More detailed information can be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Index of Retail Sales, 21 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BZ (tel. Belfast (0232) 28081, ext. 140).

		December 1975		4th quarter 1975	
Sales by:	Sales in 1965 – £m	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentage increases	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentage increases
All kinds of business	219	235	20	228	23
Food shops	97	275	21	247	22
Non-food shops	122	207	19	213	24
Of which:					
Clothing and footwear shops	36	197	15	193	18
Durable goods shops	21	188	16	189	12
Miscellaneous non-food shops	43	241	22	259	29
Department and general stores	22	173	22	181	28

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Capital expenditure of the manufacturing, distributive and service industries in the fourth quarter of 1975

Provisional estimates now available for the fourth quarter indicate that the volume of investment by manufacturing industry in 1975 was 14 per cent less than in 1974, while that of the distributive and service industries was 12 per cent down.

Manufacturing industry

Capital expenditure by manufacturing industry in the fourth quarter of 1975 is provisionally estimated at £413 million at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, 5 per cent less than in the third quarter.

This brings the estimated total for 1975 to about £1,800 million, 14 per cent less than that for 1974. This is the sharpest year-on-year fall since the series began more than 20 years ago. Previously falls of 12 per cent and 13 per cent (in 1963 and 1972) were recorded in second years of downturn, the first year showing a smaller decline; on present indications this will be the first time since 1957/59 that a steeper fall is recorded in the first year of downturn than in the second. The rapidity of the present decline in manufacturing investment is highlighted by the (unprecedented) fall of more than 20 per cent between the fourth quarters of 1974 and 1975.

By asset, expenditure on vehicles declined most in 1975, by 25 per cent compared with 1974, while that on new building work fell by 15 per cent and on plant and machinery by 13 per cent.

Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)

Provisional estimates indicate that the capital expenditure of the distributive and service industries (excluding shipping) in the fourth quarter of 1975 was about £415 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted: this is a fall of 4 per cent from the level in the previous quarter. The volume of expenditure in 1975 appears to have declined by some 12 per cent compared with that in the previous year, and this reduction has been relatively greater for vehicles (24 per cent) and smaller for plant and machinery (10 per cent) and new building work (9 per cent).

Shipping

The quarterly series for investment by the shipping industry tends to show considerable fluctuation, and the provisional estimate for the fourth quarter of 1975 is £50 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted – an appreciable fall from the estimate for the preceding quarter. The outcome for the year appears to have been a decline of about 18 per cent in the volume of investment, compared with that in the previous year.

Note

The estimation of changes in the volume of capital expenditure (as distinct from changes at current prices) is subject to greater error when price rises are larger, and this should be borne in mind in using the figures.

TABLE 1 Fixed capital expenditure at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted of manufacturing, distributive and service industries

£ million

Period	Total	Analysis by industrial sectors: Manufacturing industries	Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)	Shipping industry	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1960	2,582	1,436	955	192	765	517	1,300
1961	2,934	1,706	1,075	153	906	490	1,538
1962	2,778	1,575	1,075	129	909	438	1,432
1963	2,633	1,381	1,146	106	812	466	1,355
1964	3,062	1,561	1,344	157	922	590	1,550
1965	3,224	1,726	1,372	126	975	565	1,684
1966	3,228	1,774	1,334	120	938	556	1,733
1967	3,314	1,738	1,407	170	939	603	1,772
1968	3,703 (3,615)*	1,851 (1,800)*	1,561 (1,554)*	290 (260)*	963	759 (729)*	1,980 (1,922)*
1969	3,860 (3,948)*	1,978 (2,029)*	1,650 (1,657)*	233 (263)*	1,044	724 (754)*	2,092 (2,150)*
1970	4,220	2,130	1,726	364	1,064	852	2,305
1971	4,156	1,991	1,801	364	1,112	820	2,223
1972	4,176	1,738	1,956	482	1,038	1,001	2,136
1973	4,476	1,864	2,114	498	1,076	1,077	2,323
1974	4,455	2,087	1,959	409	1,103	957	2,395
1975	3,848	1,797	1,714	337	975	753	2,120
1970 1st quarter	1,012	513	420	79	256	202	555
2nd quarter	1,063	535	435	93	266	219	579
3rd quarter	1,057	537	431	89	265	211	581
4th quarter	1,088	546	440	102	277	221	591
1971 1st quarter	1,020	513	437	71	275	183	562
2nd quarter	1,050	499	447	104	276	222	552
3rd quarter	1,058	497	460	101	280	214	564
4th quarter	1,028	482	457	88	281	201	546
1972 1st quarter	1,029	459	463	107	260	226	543
2nd quarter	1,047	429	491	128	260	254	532
3rd quarter	1,025	423	491	111	254	246	526
4th quarter	1,074	428	510	136	264	275	535
1973 1st quarter	1,138	458	526	154	269	296	573
2nd quarter	1,057	443	515	99	267	237	554
3rd quarter	1,115	488	528	99	280	246	589
4th quarter	1,166	476	545	146	261	297	608
1974 1st quarter	1,101	519	511	72	284	212	605
2nd quarter	1,086	513	487	86	271	222	592
3rd quarter	1,135	516	485	135	275	271	590
4th quarter	1,132	539	476	117	273	252	608
1975 1st quarter	1,026	493	434	99	264	213	549
2nd quarter	980	457	433	90	248	192	540
3rd quarter	964	434	433	98	237	196	531
4th quarter	877	413	415	50	226	151	500

The figures given above cover a wide sector of the economy, accounting – after exclusion of dwellings – for some 55 per cent of all UK gross domestic fixed capital formation in 1974. The scope of manufacturing industry and the distributive and service industries is defined in the notes at the end of the article, and falls very largely in the private sector of the economy, although some public sector elements are included as appropriate (notably the British Steel Corporation, in manufacturing industry). Exploration and development work in the North Sea (Order II) is excluded.

* After allowing for expenditure, brought forward into 1968 from 1969 to secure the higher rate of investment grants which ended on 31 December 1968: estimated at £51 million for manufacturing industry, £7 million for distributive industry, and £30 million for shipping. The estimate for shipping is particularly uncertain because of the erratic nature of this industry's capital expenditure, while that for the distributive and service industries is uncertain because of the smallness of the effect.

TABLE 2 Fixed capital expenditure of manufacturing industry at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

Period	Total all manufacturing industries	Analysis by industry group: Food, drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals	Metal manufacture	Engineering shipbuilding and metal goods	Vehicles	Textiles leather and clothing	Paper printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1960	1,436.0	176.7	40.3	181.6	266.7	292.6	144.4	115.7	90.2	127.8	336.4	81.7	1,017.9
1961	1,705.9	185.5	43.0	221.5	359.1	321.8	193.9	141.6	100.3	139.2	416.2	76.2	1,213.5
1962	1,575.1	188.0	32.1	219.7	315.7	279.3	179.3	121.5	100.8	138.7	387.9	67.3	1,119.9
1963	1,381.2	189.6	41.6	172.7	186.3	277.9	168.2	111.3	100.2	133.4	299.9	81.2	1,000.1
1964	1,560.8	213.5	47.4	214.8	156.2	331.8	162.1	150.9	115.5	168.6	342.4	97.7	1,120.7
1965	1,726.0	215.1	47.5	274.0	150.6	354.8	181.0	173.3	127.0	202.7	384.0	102.2	1,239.8
1966	1,773.7	203.3	78.1	304.8	151.5	361.6	193.2	164.3	111.1	205.8	363.4	98.3	1,312.0
1967	1,737.7	236.5	123.7	256.1	155.4	353.2	194 6	133 0	109.0	176.2	319.6	99.5	1,318.6
1968	1,851.2 (1,800.2)	*247.1	127.7	256.0	145.8	392.2	172.2	176.7	112.2	221.3	335.9	109.2	1,406.1 (1,355.1)*
1969	1,977.5 (2,028.5)	*238.8	102.9	296.4	167.9	394.0	208.7	189.4	121.3	258.1	390.1	115.9	1,471.5 (1,522.5)*
1970	2,129.8	246.4	82.8	382.3	256.4	422.3	233.4	170.9	134.2	201.1	391.2	114.7	1,623.9
1971	1,990.7	248.6	118.5	333.9	296.3	373.3	149.2	144.4	110.8	215.7	357.1	113.4	1,520.2
1972	1,737.5	259.1	101.7	240.5	254.5	343.2	96.9	119.9	102.2	219.5	306.3	121.2	1,310.0
1973	1,864.4	286.0	41.2	193.3	212.5	428.3	142.6	178.8	124.2	257.5	322.0	133.8	1,408.6
1974	2,087.1	294.5	44.6	241.2	255.5	476.4	161.2	198.3	152.7	262.7	360.8	144.4	1,581.9
1975	1,797.2										305.2	108.0	1,384.0
1970 1st quarter	512.5	60.9	19.1	92.3	48.9	104.4	56.1	43.8	35.8	51.2	93.9	29.5	389.1
2nd quarter	534.6	65.8	21.2	93.9	58.7	106.2	59.4	44.9	33.7	50.8	99.1	29.1	406.4
3rd quarter	536.6	56.2	24.2	96.7	63.6	107.2	62.5	44.5	32.3	49.4	98.0	29.0	409.6
4th quarter	546.1	63.5	18.3	99.4	85.2	104.5	55.4	37.7	32.4	49.7	100.2	27.1	418.8
1971 1st quarter	512.8	62.2	25.5	88.7	73.0	103.2	40.3	40.8	27.8	51.3	91.1	28.0	393.7
2nd quarter	498.5	61.5	26.1	78.5	71.4	96.4	40.8	39.4	29.2	55.2	89.7	29.0	379.8
3rd quarter	497.1	62.2	31.8	84.8	77.0	89.9	36.5	32.2	27.3	55.4	87.0	27.2	382.9
4th quarter	482.3	62.7	35.1	81.9	74.9	83.8	31.6	32.0	26.5	53.8	89.3	29.2	363.8
1972 1st quarter	458.5	59.9	30.8	69.7	84.5	82.5	25.8	25.8	22.2	57.3	81.0	27.5	350.0
2nd quarter	428.6	63.2	27.0	62.8	62.3	80.8	22.7	30.1	25.5	54.2	77.7	28.9	322.0
3rd quarter	422.8	67.2	22.7	57.4	53.2	88.0	22.9	30.4	26.8	54.2	76.2	31.4	315.2
4th quarter	427.6	68.8	21.2	50.6	54.5	91.9	25.5	33.6	27.7	53.8	71.4	33.4	322.8
1973 1st quarter	457.8	74.1	18.8	49.9	58.8	97.1	32.0	39.2	30.3	57.6	73.9	33.3	350.6
2nd quarter	442.9	63.5	18.6	49.1	39.8	105.7	33.3	39.9	30.2	62.8	75.3	31.3	336.3
3rd quarter	487.6	71.5	14.2	47.4	58.9	110.7	37.7	48.7	31.6	66.9	86.8	34.3	366.5
4th quarter	476.1	76.9	−10.4	46.9	55.0	114.8	39.6	51.0	32.1	70.2	86.0	34.9	355.2
1974 1st quarter	519.1	77.8	9.4	53.9	56.0	122.3	41.7	50.5	35.3	72.2	90.7	35.7	392.7
2nd quarter	513.1	75.8	9.5	55.4	61.9	115.9	40.3	49.5	38.2	66.6	86.8	36.0	390.3
3rd quarter	515.7	72.6	11.8	60.6	59.2	119.0	39.9	50.9	38.4	63.3	88.5	36.9	390.3
4th quarter	539.2	68.3	13.9	71.3	78.4	119.2	39.3	47.4	40.8	60.6	94.8	35.8	408.6
1975 1st quarter	493.0	65.1	12.1	76.2	70.9	104.4	37.0	38.4	35.5	53.4	88.2	29.2	375.6
2nd quarter	456.9	56.9	13.5	75.7	69.7	94.3	33.8	32.7	31.2	49.1	78.7	25.8	352.4
3rd quarter	434.1	48.7	15.2	79.0	71.7	85.5	28.4	31.1	32.9	41.6	73.8	26.5	333.8
4th quarter	413.2										64.5	26.5	322.2

The main revision to Q4 1973 is due to a disposal of plant to a leasing company. A corresponding addition has been made to the 'Other Industries' figures in Table 3.

TABLE 3 Fixed capital expenditure in the distributive and service industries (excluding shipping) at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

Period	Total	Analysis by industry group: Wholesale distribution	Retail distribution	Other industries	Analysis by type of asset: New building work	Vehicles	Plant and machinery
1960	955	127	211	617	428	245	282
1961	1,075	136	235	705	490	261	324
1962	1,075	129	226	720	519	244	312
1963	1,146	140	242	765	510	282	355
1964	1,344	164	273	907	578	337	429
1965	1,372	163	255	953	586	342	444
1966	1,334	147	231	956	570	342	421
1967	1,407	170	225	1,012	616	338	453
1968	1,561 (1,554)*	166	283	1,112 (1,105)*	624	368	570 (563)*
1969	1,650 (1,657)*	160	295	1,195 (1,202)*	650	385	615 (622)*
1970	1,726	176	299	1,252	667	387	673
1971	1,801	185	334	1,283	753	355	694
1972	1,956	198	400	1,358	729	421	806
1973	2,114	197	442	1,475	753	454	907
1974	1,959	174	401	1,384	739	410	810
1975	1,714				668	313	733
1970 1st quarter	420	43	76	301	161	95	165
2nd quarter	435	47	74	315	164	99	171
3rd quarter	431	46	75	310	166	96	169
4th quarter	440	40	74	326	176	96	168
1971 1st quarter	437	44	81	312	183	87	167
2nd quarter	447	47	86	314	185	92	169
3rd quarter	460	47	85	328	193	89	178
4th quarter	457	47	81	329	192	86	179
1972 1st quarter	463	49	91	324	177	99	187
2nd quarter	491	50	96	345	183	104	205
3rd quarter	491	47	104	341	177	107	207
4th quarter	510	53	110	348	193	111	207
1973 1st quarter	526	51	104	371	195	113	219
2nd quarter	515	50	113	353	191	107	217
3rd quarter	528	48	115	365	192	116	220
4th quarter	545	48	110	387	174	119	251
1974 1st quarter	511	46	101	364	193	107	211
2nd quarter	487	43	96	348	184	102	201
3rd quarter	485	46	96	344	185	101	199
4th quarter	476	39	108	329	177	101	199
1975 1st quarter	434	35	87	311	176	86	172
2nd quarter	433	34	96	304	169	77	187
3rd quarter	433	32	95	306	163	74	197
4th quarter	415				161	76	177

The main revision to Q4 1973 is due to an acquisition of plant from a manufacturing company. A corresponding reduction has been made to Table 2.

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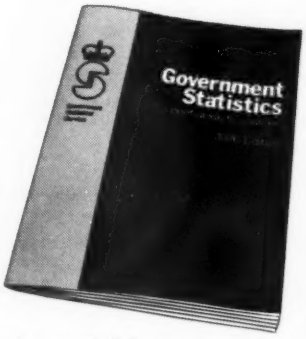

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TABLE 4 Fixed capital expenditure at current prices of manufacturing, distributive and service industries

£ million

Period		Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries (excluding shipping)	Shipping industry
1960		1,912	1,021	728	162
1961		2,213	1,248	833	132
1962		2,148	1,182	859	107
1963		2,094	1,068	942	84
1964		2,477	1,232	1,122	123
1965		2,694	1,423	1,171	100
1966		2,787	1,517	1,172	99
1967		2,861	1,485	1,236	140
1968		3,304	1,639	1,418	247
1969		3,597	1,822	1,558	217
1970		4,220	2,130	1,726	364
1971		4,513	2,187	1,942	384
1972		4,836	2,042	2,241	553
1973		5,772	2,428	2,709	635
1974		6,800	3,242	2,956	603
1975		7,307	3,565	3,184	558
1970	1st quarter	939	465	404	71
	2nd quarter	1,033	511	427	95
	3rd quarter	1,043	546	420	77
	4th quarter	1,205	608	476	122
1971	1st quarter	1,044	523	457	65
	2nd quarter	1,098	519	471	108
	3rd quarter	1,136	560	483	93
	4th quarter	1,234	585	532	118
1972	1st quarter	1,132	512	515	105
	2nd quarter	1,166	476	550	140
	3rd quarter	1,161	503	546	111
	4th quarter	1,378	551	630	197
1973	1st quarter	1,383	565	653	166
	2nd quarter	1,296	536	642	118
	3rd quarter	1,401	636	656	109
	4th quarter	1,692	692	758	242
1974	1st quarter	1,526	722	714	90
	2nd quarter	1,543	723	702	118
	3rd quarter	1,722	821	726	174
	4th quarter	2,010	975	814	221
1975	1st quarter	1,770	877	754	139
	2nd quarter	1,750	844	769	137
	3rd quarter	1,830	892	792	146
	4th quarter	1,956	952	869	135

NOTES TO TABLES

Capital expenditure comprises expenditure on vehicles (including ships) and plant and machinery less receipts from sales of these assets, and on new building work.

The analysis by industry group follows the Standard Industrial Classification Revised 1968 edition:

Manufacturing Orders III to XIX
Distributive Trades Order XXIII
Wholesale MLH 810, 811, 812, 831, 832 (except leasing by Finance Houses and similar businesses)
Retail MLH 820, 821
Other Industries Order XX (Construction): XXII (Transport and Communication) excluding 701 – Railways, 706 – Port and Inland Water Transport, 707 – Air Transport and 708 – Postal Services and Telecommunications; XXIV (Insurance, Banking, Finance and Business Services) including leasing by Finance Houses and similar Businesses and excluding Trustee Savings Banks; XXV (Professional and Scientific Services) excluding 872 – Educational Services and 874 – Medical and Dental Services; and XXVI (Miscellaneous Services).

SIC Orders I (Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing), II (Mining and Quarrying), XXI (Gas, Electricity and Water), and XXVII (Public Administration and Defence) are completely excluded.

The estimates, with the exception of those for manufacturing industry in Table 2, are shown to the nearest £m but should not be regarded as accurate to this degree and care should be taken in using the industry figures in Tables 2 and 3 because of the margins of error involved in the quarterly seasonal adjustments. Also, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals and the sum of the constituent parts due to rounding.

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Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks in the fourth quarter of 1975

Manufacturing industry

It is provisionally estimated that manufacturers' stocks fell by about £20 million at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the fourth quarter of 1975. This follows very heavy destocking in the previous two quarters.

Stocks of materials and fuel continued to decline although not as fast as previously and this movement was partially offset by a small rise in stocks of finished goods. There appears to have been no change in work in progress.

During 1975, manufacturers' stocks fell by about £340 million in all, the largest annual fall since the series started in 1955. This compares with the very heavy stockbuilding of about £670 million which took place in 1974. The major fall during 1975 was in stocks of materials and fuel, although work in progress also declined substantially. Stocks of finished goods continued to rise strongly in the first quarter of 1975 following an increase of nearly £300 million in 1974, and despite some destocking in the second and third quarters, rose over the year as a whole by about £110 million.

The stocks/output ratio has fallen slightly during the quarter and is estimated to have been 106.8 at the end of December.

Distributive industries

Provisional results indicate that wholesalers' stocks increased by about £30 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the fourth quarter of 1975. This partly offsets the reduction in the first three

TABLE 1 Value of physical increase of manufacturers' and distributors' stocks at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Total	Manu-facturing	Wholesaling	Retailing
Level of stocks at end 1974	14,581	10,753	1,918	1,910
1970	363	325	68	−30
1971	−106	−148	52	−10
1972	−138	−175	48	−11
1973	832	396	102	334
1974	679	666	81	−68
1975	−414	−337	−83	6
1970 1st quarter	29	54	5	−30
2nd quarter	141	119	18	4
3rd quarter	83	70	16	−3
4th quarter	110	82	29	−1
1971 1st quarter	8	26	14	−32
2nd quarter	−69	−95	26	—
3rd quarter	−26	−42	9	8
4th quarter	−19	−36	3	14
1972 1st quarter	−73	−72	17	−18
2nd quarter	−47	−81	1	33
3rd quarter	−45	−35	6	−16
4th quarter	27	13	24	−10
1973 1st quarter	254	166	37	51
2nd quarter	277	88	3	185
3rd quarter	123	46	29	47
4th quarter	179	96	32	51
1974 1st quarter	−72	−31	18	−59
2nd quarter	261	191	43	27
3rd quarter	357	368	3	−14
4th quarter	134	139	17	−22
1975 1st quarter	−92	−4	−31	−57
2nd quarter	−219	−112	−54	−52
3rd quarter	−173	−204	−29	60
4th quarter	69	−18	32	55

TABLE 2 Value of the physical increase of stocks held by manufacturing industry at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Analysis by industry group							Analysis by type of asset		
	All manu-facturing industries	Food, drink and tobacco	Chemicals, coal and petroleum products	Metal manu-facture	Engineer-ing, ship-building, vehicles and metal goods	Textiles, leather and clothing	Other manu-facturing industries	Materials and fuel	Work in progress	Finished goods
Level of stocks at end 1974	10,753	1,421	1,140	790	5,305	917	1,181	3,925	4,103	2,725
1970	325	11	43	50	222	1	−1	113	122	90
1971	−148	11	17	5	−164	−14	−3	−146	−98	96
1972	−175	18	5	−44	−118	−52	17	−42	3	−136
1973	396	69	80	−13	224	13	22	243	246	−93
1974	666	78	172	26	265	46	80	278	106	283
1975	−337							−348	−102	113
1970 1st quarter	54	6	19	−5	16	9	9	13	2	39
2nd quarter	119	6	4	17	96	1	−6	56	63	1
3rd quarter	70	4	12	15	43	—	−5	35	12	23
4th quarter	82	−6	8	23	67	−10	1	10	45	27
1971 1st quarter	26	8	−5	39	−27	8	4	−23	−22	71
2nd quarter	−95	−7	15	−28	−39	−32	−4	−48	−59	12
3rd quarter	−42	−10	−2	−8	−24	6	−4	−40	−9	6
4th quarter	−36	21	9	2	−74	4	1	−35	−8	7
1972 1st quarter	−72	7	14	−43	−23	−13	−15	−20	3	−55
2nd quarter	−81	11	−21	4	−72	−13	11	−56	16	−41
3rd quarter	−35	−4	7	−5	−20	−16	4	7	−15	−27
4th quarter	13	5	5	−1	−3	−11	18	27	−1	−13
1973 1st quarter	166	2	16	39	78	−5	35	60	97	9
2nd quarter	88	16	30	−5	53	5	−11	68	52	−33
3rd quarter	46	30	16	−17	18	5	−5	37	51	−42
4th quarter	96	22	18	−30	76	9	3	78	46	−28
1974 1st quarter	−31	22	39	−39	−26	−1	−27	49	−12	−68
2nd quarter	191	18	38	—	58	28	49	58	27	105
3rd quarter	368	56	74	36	129	27	46	143	67	158
4th quarter	139	−18	20	29	103	−8	12	28	24	87
1975 1st quarter	−4	−18	−17	71	−3	—	−36	−132	9	119
2nd quarter	−112	−60	−23	16	10	−18	−37	−54	−44	−14
3rd quarter	−204	−8	−31	−31	−80	−12	−42	−120	−66	−18
4th quarter	−18							−43	—	25

quarters, so that the decline over the year was about £80 million. Retailers' stocks increased by £55 million, at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in the fourth quarter, so that there was virtually no change in these stocks over the year.

TABLE 3 Value of the physical increase of stocks held by wholesalers at 1970 prices seasonally adjusted £ million

	Total wholesalers	General wholesale distributors	Dealers in coal, builders materials, etc.	Dealers in industrial materials and machinery
Level of stocks at end 1974	1,918	1,182	160	576
1970	68	15	—	53
1971	52	41	−3	14
1972	48	41	11	−3
1973	102	127	−1	−24
1974	81	6	—	75
1975	−83			
1970 1st quarter	5	−3	1	6
2nd quarter	18	10	−3	11
3rd quarter	16	−4	−2	21
4th quarter	29	11	4	14
1971 1st quarter	14	3	1	11
2nd quarter	26	20	1	5
3rd quarter	9	12	—	−3
4th quarter	3	6	−4	2
1972 1st quarter	17	2	1	14
2nd quarter	1	4	2	−5
3rd quarter	6	22	2	−18
4th quarter	24	13	7	5
1973 1st quarter	37	37	−1	1
2nd quarter	3	13	3	−13
3rd quarter	29	41	1	−13
4th quarter	32	36	−4	—
1974 1st quarter	18	19	6	−7
2nd quarter	43	21	1	22
3rd quarter	3	−22	−4	29
4th quarter	17	−12	−2	31
1975 1st quarter	−31	−52	12	9
2nd quarter	−54	−52	−11	9
3rd quarter	−29	−26	−6	4
4th quarter	32			

TABLE 4 Increase in the book value of manufacturers' and distributors' stocks £ million

	Total	Manufacturing	Wholesaling	Retailing
Level of stocks at end 1974	24,909	18,621	3,418	2,870
1970	1,301	1,038	162	101
1971	761	471	160	130
1972	900	579	217	104
1973	3,348	2,318	593	437
1974	6,307	5,059	779	469
1975	3,349	2,548	232	569
1970 1st quarter	323	288	16	18
2nd quarter	351	293	26	33
3rd quarter	266	174	78	14
4th quarter	362	284	43	36
1971 1st quarter	258	211	29	19
2nd quarter	293	180	60	53
3rd quarter	111	28	70	12
4th quarter	99	53	—	46
1972 1st quarter	76	50	5	22
2nd quarter	185	103	25	57
3rd quarter	239	138	106	−5
4th quarter	400	288	82	30
1973 1st quarter	588	425	71	92
2nd quarter	663	490	88	85
3rd quarter	943	600	239	104
4th quarter	1,154	804	194	156
1974 1st quarter	1,761	1,487	204	70
2nd quarter	1,845	1,428	224	193
3rd quarter	1,526	1,240	199	87
4th quarter	1,175	904	152	119
1975 1st quarter	956	886	−16	86
2nd quarter	636	587	−20	68
3rd quarter	573	262	124	187
4th quarter	1,184	813	143	228

Book Values exclude VAT. Purchase Tax payable on retailer's stock prior to the second quarter of 1973.

Note

The estimation of physical change in stock is subject to greater error when price increases are larger, and this should be borne in mind in using the figures.

Notes relating to Tables 1 to 4

The analysis by industry group follows the Standard Industrial Classification (1968 edition)
Manufacturing Orders III to XIX
Distributive Trades Order XXII:

Wholesale MLH 810, 811, 812, 831, 832 (except leasing by Finance Houses)
Retail MLH 820, 821

The estimates are shown to the nearest £ million but should not be regarded as accurate to this degree and care should be taken in using the industry figures in Tables 2 and 3 because of the margin of error involved in quarterly seasonal adjustments. Differences between totals and the sum of constituent parts are due to rounding.

TABLE 5 The relationship of manufacturers' stocks to manufacturing production

	Index numbers – 4th quarter 1969 = 100 Seasonally adjusted				Index numbers – 4th quarter 1969 = 100 Seasonally adjusted			
	Stock levels at 1970 prices	Production (with 1970 net output weight)	Ratio of stocks to production		Stock levels at 1970 prices	Production (with 1970 net output weight)	Ratio of stocks to production
1966 Q1	91	90	100.9	1971 Q1	104	100	104.0
2	92	90	101.9	2	103	100	102.2
3	93	90	103.1	3	102	100	102.1
4	93	87	106.7	4	102	99	102.6
1967 Q1	94	89	105.4	1972 Q1	101	98	103.2
2	94	90	104.6	2	100	102	98.5
3	94	90	104.5	3	100	103	97.0
4	94	92	102.6	4	100	106	94.3
1968 Q1	93	94	98.8	1973 Q1	102	111	91.9
2	94	96	98.4	2	103	111	92.8
3	96	96	99.5	3	103	112	92.1
4	97	97	99.8	4	104	111	93.6
1969 Q1	98	98	100.0	1974 Q1	104	107	97.4
2	99	100	98.7	2	106	110	96.3
3	99	100	99.5	3	110	110	99.7
4	100	100	100.0	4	111	106	104.8
1970 Q1	101	100	101.0	1975 Q1	111	106	104.6
2	102	100	102.2	2	110	101	109.4
3	102	101	101.9	3	108	100	107.6
4	103	101	102.2	4	108	101	106.8

1 The index numbers of the level of stocks relate to the end of each quarter: the index of production refers to production during the quarter.

2 The 1970 index of production has been rebased on the fourth quarter of 1969 for the purpose of this table.

3 The index numbers of the stocks production ratio are calculated from unrounded estimates of the data in the previous two columns.

Manufacturers' stocks in December

It is estimated that manufacturers' stocks rose by about £20 million at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted, in December. A rise in stocks of materials and fuel appears to account for most of this increase, with very little change in work in progress and stocks of finished goods.

Monthly figures from January 1975 adjusted to agree with the quarterly figures published in the preceding article are shown below:

	£ million, 1970 prices seasonally adjusted
1975 January	no change
February	+40
March	−40
April	no change
May	−10
June	−100
July	−60
August	−50
September	−100
October	−70
November	+30
December	+20

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The Annual Census of Production Reports (the PA series of Monitors), and the 1971 Census of Distribution Reports (which are being published as Monitors SD 10 to SD 23, though not all are yet available) can be obtained on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, or can be purchased separately from the Government Bookshops or through booksellers.

Cinema admissions and takings in November 1975

During November, counted as a four week period, the weekly average of admissions to cinemas in Great Britain was 1.98 million and the weekly average of gross box office takings was £1.34 million. The comparable figures for November 1974 were 2.65 and £1.41 million, respectively.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday 27 February 1976.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Makers' name
			BRITISH		
One Of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing	BR/E 38461/28/2/81	94	24 February	Walt Disney Productions Ltd.	Walt Disney Productions Ltd.
Banger Boys	BR/E 38462/28/2/81	30	24 February	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	New Decade Films Ltd.
Review No. 6 (29th Year)	BR/E 38468/28/2/81	10	27 February	Data Film Distributors Ltd.	National Coal Board
Movietone News 2438	BR/E 38346/28/2/81	8	27 February	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
The Sparrow Of Pigalle	EC 38460/28/2/81	101	23 February	Gala Film Distributors Ltd.	Les Films Feuer Et Martin, Paris
Cat Dance of Sex	EC 38465/28/2/81	77	26 February	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd.	Renova Inter Contact, Paris
Bed Champions	EC 38466/28/2/81	76	26 February	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd.	City-Film GmbH, Berlin West, Germany
			FOREIGN		
Candy Stripe Nurses	F 38459	77	23 February	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	New World Export Corporation, California
The Battle of Billy's Pond	F 38463	56	24 February	Children's Film Foundation Ltd.	Mark Forstater Productions Ltd., London
The Seedling (Ankur)	F 38464	132	26 February	Contemporary Films Ltd.	Blaze Enterprises (Private) Ltd., London
Lost World of Sinbad	F 38467	82	27 February	Focus Film Distributors Ltd.	Toho Company, Japan

Correction to the Register

The name and address of the maker of the film 'Drummer of Vengeance' (F 37790) registered on 14 November 1974 has been corrected to Manhatten Films Ltd., London.

NOTE:

The quota life of the film 'Tales of Beatrix Potter' (BR/E 35411) has been extended until 9 April 1977 by a Direction under section 2(2) of the Films Act 1960, as amended by section 10(1) of the Films Act 1970.

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Energy trends: energy consumption lowest for six years

Total energy consumption in 1975 was just over 320 million tons of coal equivalent (mtce), on a primary fuel input basis, the lowest since 1969, according to *Energy Trends*, the bulletin prepared by the Economics and Statistics Division of the Department of Energy.

Consumption in 1975 as a whole was down by over 3 per cent on the 1974 levels, when consumption was affected by the three-day week. In the nine months April-December 1975 consumption was 7 per cent lower than in the same months of 1974.

Provisional estimates of net arrivals of crude and process oils in 1975 show a drop of 20 per cent compared with 1974. Arrivals in 1975, at 88 million tons, were the lowest since 1968.

The gas share of total consumption rose from under 15 per cent to over 16.5 per cent during the last nine months of 1975. Consumption of the other primary fuels was lower in that period, coal down by 5 per cent and petroleum by 11 per cent.

Total consumption in December 1975, seasonally adjusted and temperature corrected, was about 3.5 per cent lower than in December 1974.

Coal – power station burn increasing

Coal consumption in January 1976 was 3.5 per cent higher than in the same month of 1975. This was due entirely to a 19 per cent increase in power station consumption.

Each of the remaining markets of the economy took less coal in January this year compared with January 1975, with particularly sharp falls in the domestic sector.

Deep-mined coal output in January was just over 800,000 tons less than in January 1975 due to increased leave allowances. With output lower than consumption, stocks fell by 1 million tons overall.

Gas gains more ground

Gas sent out in 1975 rose by nearly 3 per cent compared with 1974, despite a five-month period of slackening demand during June-October 1975. The recovery noted in November continued in December with an increase of nearly 15 per cent compared with the same month of 1974.

Electricity – increasing swing to coal

There was a marked change during 1975 in the pattern of fuel consumption at power stations. Coal consumption was 11 per cent higher than in 1974, but oil consumption for generation was the lowest since 1970 at 21 mtce. The switch from oil to coal was most pronounced in the later months of 1975.

Petroleum – refinery output down

Refinery output of finished products during 1975 was 85 million tons – a drop of 16 per cent on the previous year. Of the major products, fuel oil and gas/diesel oil registered the greatest reductions with cut-backs of 18 and 16 per cent respectively.

Inland deliveries of products during 1975 were 12 per cent lower than in 1974, with fuel oil down by 18.4 per cent to the lowest level recorded since 1966. In contrast, fuels used for transport – motor spirit, derv and aviation turbine fuel – were less depressed and aviation fuel deliveries increased on 1974 levels by nearly 4 per cent.

Hosiery and other knitted goods: index of production

In the three months ended December 1975 the volume of production of hosiery and other knitted goods, seasonally adjusted (including knitted fabrics), was provisionally estimated to have been 9 per cent less than in the three months ended December 1974.

The seasonally adjusted figures for 1975 are based on the seasonal pattern up to the end of 1974 and may be subject to slight revision when the complete figures for 1975 have been incorporated. The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months, but not for other seasonal variations.

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months.

Hosiery and other knitted goods

1970 = 100

1968	88
1969	98
1970	100
1971	99
1972	100
1973	103
1974	100
1975 p	94

	Including warp knitting	
	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1974 1st quarter	91	97
2nd quarter	103	105
3rd quarter	97	101
4th quarter	108	96
1975 1st quarter	87	93
2nd quarter	95	96
3rd quarter p	96	100
4th quarter p	99	88
1974 April	95	102
May	99	101
June	116	112
July	88	100
August	91	102
September	113	102
October	120	101
November	124	104
December	79	83
1975 January	78	92
February	93	98
March	90	89
April	89	95
May	92	93
June	104	100
July p	86	98
August p	90	100
September p	112	100
October p	109	91
November p	111	93
December p	76	79

p = provisional.

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Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	28 Nov. 1975
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	20 Feb. 1976
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	17 Oct. 1975
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	This week
By regions	27 Feb. 1976
Catering trades turnover (M)	20 Feb. 1976
Census of production (A)	19 Dec. 1974
(amendment)	16 Jan. 1975
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	2 Jan. 1976
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	27 Feb. 1976
insolvencies (Q)	6 Feb. 1976
liquidity (Q)	12 Dec. 1975
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	This week
N. Ireland (M)	27 Feb. 1976
rate of return on capital	24 Oct. 1975
Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1975
EEC economic indicators	27 Feb. 1976
Energy trends (M)	This week
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	27 Feb. 1976
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	13 Feb. 1976
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overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
registrations of films (A)	30 Jan. 1976
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	10 Oct. 1975
household consumption (Q)	16 Jan. 1976
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	30 Jan. 1976
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	13 Feb. 1976
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	9 Jan. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	13 Feb. 1976
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N. Ireland index (M)	21 Nov. 1975
Wales	16 Jan. 1976
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
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industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	9 Jan. 1976
investment and earnings overseas (A)	14 Mar. 1975
(amendment)	21 Mar. 1975
Man-made fibres:	
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production: quarterly analysis (Q)	13 Feb. 1976
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Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
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Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	20 Feb. 1976
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wool output (M)	27 Feb. 1976
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Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	13 June 1975
index numbers (M)	20 Feb. 1976

Departmental organisations, etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representations overseas	3 Oct. 1975
Customs notices of interest to exporters	27 Feb. 1976
ECGD local offices	27 Feb. 1976
Guide to Departments	21 Nov. 1975
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Programme of trade promotions	16 Jan. 1976
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24 March 1976 Miscellaneous stores

Location: The Embassy Suite, Balkerne Lane, Colchester

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Catalogues for the above sales which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times etc. are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale. Price, 10p (postal orders only).

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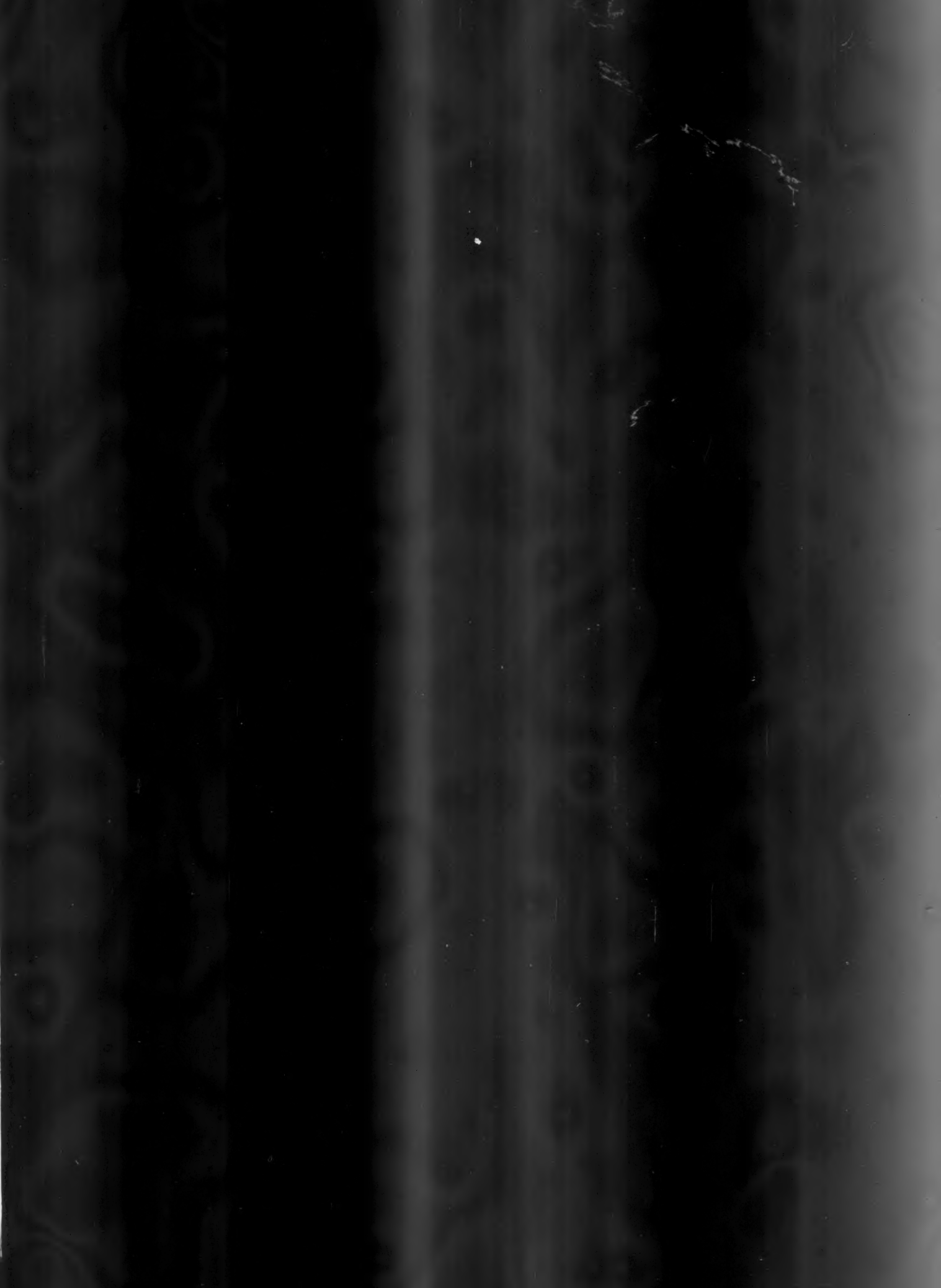
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